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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Reports Developments, Interviews Delegates

Delegations Depart for Washington

TA0812061991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpts] As the bilateral talks in Washington on Tuesday approach, a new problem has arisen after the Palestinians and the Jordanians demanded and received two separate rooms so that they can hold talks with Israel in two distinct delegations. 'Oded Ben-'Ami, our correspondent in the United States, reports that as soon as the Israeli representatives got word of this, they demanded the administration close one of the rooms, because Israel is prepared to hold talks only with a joint delegation.

The Israeli delegations left for the United States last night. Earlier, Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, who heads the delegation for talks with Syria, said that despite Israel's goodwill, one should not expect quick breakthroughs, because the Arab partners in the talks are not interested in direct negotiations. To a question by our correspondent Ron Nesi'el, Ben-Aharon replied that any settlement requires mutual understanding and a desire to bring the positions closer. He emphasized, however, that no progress will be made if Syria expects to receive territories in return for peace.

As soon as the delegations arrive in Washington, they will confer with Ambassador Zalman Shoval and will then try to make initial contacts with the Arab delegations in anticipation of direct negotiations.

Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas, who heads the team for talks with Lebanon, said that Israel is determined to search every avenue to make progress. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 8 December, in a report by Ron Nesi'el, notes that Hadas also said "we have no intention of presenting any preconditions," and that he hopes the Arabs will "respond in kind."]

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who heads the delegation for talks with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, expressed the hope that in this round of talks the parties will progress from administrative to substantive issues. [passage omitted]

Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington, again tried to establish contact with the head of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation over the weekend in a bid to coordinate a date for a meeting between the delegations, but the Jordanians were not cooperative. Israeli sources in Washington told our correspondent Arye Golan that the Jordanians are still not prepared to engage in any direct contact with Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 8 December carries a report by Arye Golan, political correspondent in Washington, who says that "at this stage it seems Israel is prepared for only one week of talks" in Washington and "still maintains that after one or two meetings with each Arab delegation, the talks should be brought to the Middle East. As far as is known right now, the Israeli delegation plans to return to Israel at the end of this week to report to the cabinet on the deliberations and receive instructions for the future."]

List of Delegates

TA0812114091 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Dec 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Over the weekend, the Prime Minister's Office made a final effort to reduce the size of the Israeli delegation to the Washington talks. Despite the effort, 60 people left for the negotiations last night. They include the top officials dealing with political issues. [passage omitted]

From the list of delegates the Foreign Ministry published yesterday, it appears that the delegation for negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is the largest and that it is loaded with legal experts. Yig'al Karmon, the prime minister's adviser on counterterrorism, was added to the delegation for negotiations with the Syrians. That move perhaps indicates that Israel views Syria as a country that supports terrorism. Yosi Olmert, director of the Government Press Office, was added to that delegation at the last moment, although the head of the delegation, Yosi Ben-Aharon, had asked that no spokesman be added to his delegation. The head of the delegation for negotiations with Lebanon is Foreign Ministry Director General Yosi Hadas, while Uri Lubrani, the Defense Ministry representative, assumed the title of "associate chairman."

All in all, there are 30 official negotiators, accompanied by various advisers and security, communications, and administrative personnel. It is worth noting that the Foreign Ministry last night published a full list of delegation members, which includes several defense establishment members who were presented as belonging to the "Prime Minister's Office." These people were not on the list of delegates as the Prime Minister's Office published it.

The Israeli delegations for negotiations in Washington are composed as follows:

1. The delegation for negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation:

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, chairman; Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry assistant director general in charge of the North America and Disarmament Affairs Division, deputy chairman; Zalman Shoval, ambassador to Washington; Salay Meridor, the defense minister's political adviser; Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories; Robbie Sabel, legal adviser of the Foreign Ministry; Dov

Shefi, former legal adviser of the Defense Ministry; Eli Avi'ad, of the Foreign Ministry's Center for Political Research; Nadav 'Aner, chief assistant to the director general of the Prime Minister's Office; 'Amos Gil'ad, "Prime Minister's Office;" Arye Zohar, "Prime Minister's Office;" Nahman Tal, "Prime Minister's Office;" and Yosi Gal, head of the Foreign Ministry's public relations department, the delegation spokesman.

2. The delegation for negotiations with the Syrian delegation:

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, delegation chairman; David Afeq, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Research Center, deputy chairman; Brigadier General Yequti'el Mor, head of the Army's Intelligence Branch Research Division; Yig'al Karmon, prime minister's adviser on counterterrorism; David Kornblut, representative of the Foreign Ministry's legal department; Beni Rubin, Justice Ministry representative; and Avraham Liss, "Prime Minister's Office;" Yosi Olmert, head of the Government Press Office.

3. The delegation for negotiations with the Lebanese delegation:

Yosi Hadas, director general of the Foreign Ministry, delegation chairman; Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, associate chairman; David Sultan, Foreign Ministry assistant director general in charge of Middle East affairs; Yehoyada' Hayim, of the Foreign Ministry's Political Research Center; Re'uven Ehrlich, Lubrani's deputy; Alan Baker, representative of the Foreign Ministry's legal department; Lieutenant Colonel Hovav Shapira, the deputy prime minister's military secretary; and Yitzhaq Levanon, Israel's consul general in Montreal, delegation spokesman.

Authority in Talks Outlined

TA0912094391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 91 p A1

[Report from Washington by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources in the Israeli delegation stressed yesterday that despite the decision to end the current round of talks by the end of this week, the heads of the delegations are authorized to decide to extend their stay in Washington for as long as necessary.

One of the heads of the Israeli negotiating teams in Washington said yesterday that Israel will examine progress not only regarding procedural issues, but also regarding the extent of the Arab delegations' readiness to enter substantive discussions. Although a dispute over the issue of venue is expected to be a central topic in the initial meetings, the Israeli negotiating teams expect the Arab delegations to display readiness to hold direct negotiations without U.S. mediation.

In the talks with the Palestinians, Israel will offer autonomy arrangements for the residents of the territories. One of Israel's central claims in the discussion of arrangements in the territories during the transitional period will focus on a demand for an extended Israel Army presence to defend its eastern border. This claim will be based on the changes that have taken place since the autonomy talks 10 years ago.

The Israeli delegation is authorized to offer the Palestinian delegation "autonomy for the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." Sources in the Israeli delegation explain that they put the stress on the word "residents," signifying that the autonomy in question is for the people (personal) and not the territories in which they reside.

The Israeli delegation arrived in Washington with the autonomy plan as it was offered to Egypt in the 1982 autonomy talks. At the same time, political echelons did not instruct the officials on whether they should regard the plan as a starting point for the continuation of the discussion on the nature of the self-government or whether they should start negotiations at "zero point."

The delegation to the talks with the Syrians has no authority to conduct negotiations on borders. The delegation was asked only to make suggestions concerning the nature of the peace accord and future cooperation. The delegation will also be able to discuss demilitarization and other security arrangements on the Golan Heights. The delegation for talks with Lebanon was authorized to negotiate the withdrawal of the Israeli Army only if this is part of an arrangement for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

[A related report by Moti Bassok on page 6 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 9 December adds: "In the discussions with the Lebanese delegation, Israel will try to examine whether the Lebanese Government is willing and able to secure absolute security for Israel's northern border and what guarantees it is willing to offer in security terms. The Israeli delegation was instructed to discuss principles, not territories, with the aim being a very slow, multiphased contract, according to which progress toward each new phase will be dependent on the Lebanese ability to keep all the promises made in the preceding phase."]

1982 Autonomy Stands Under Review

TA0812101691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Dec 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Following instructions from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Israel has backtracked on some of the agreements on autonomy reached during the negotiations with Egypt in 1982, political sources in Jerusalem reported last night.

The sources added that Shamir had ordered Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein to formulate new Israeli

positions on some issues to which Israel had given its consent during the autonomy talks.

The main components of these new positions include the issue of security and Israel's reneging on the agreement to hand over local police matters to the Palestinians; changes in the legal system; and limiting the agreement for an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment to especially designated points after the establishment of autonomy.

Shamir's instructions conflict with his public statements and his remarks in meetings with foreign politicians. In his meeting in Madrid with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa—and these quotes were provided by the prime minister's spokesmen—Shamir suggested that the autonomy negotiations pick up where the talks with Egypt on the matter left off.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau confirmed last night that Israel's current position on autonomy includes what they called "new elements." The sources said that Shamir "is not minimizing" what was achieved during the 1982 talks, but that agreement was rejected by the Palestinians themselves, thereby rendering it "not binding." The developments over the past decade, said the sources, including the intifadah, obligate Israel to "reconsider" parts of the concessions it made in the talks with Egypt. [passage omitted]

No Comment on Autonomy Proposals

TA0812180091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, by Washington correspondent Arye Golan—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Upon his arrival in Washington, Ben-Aharon said that this is not the time to elaborate on the proposals Israel will make in the talks. Ben-Aharon also refused to tell us whether he had brought along new proposals for the talks with the Syrians.

[Ben-Aharon] We have come to conduct direct negotiations with the Syrians as well as with the other delegations. We hope that the negotiations will soon move to matters of substance so that we may ascertain whether there is room to progress toward an agreement.

[Golan] Will Israel be prepared to contemplate a proposal making the rounds in Washington about an interim arrangement with the Syrians that would include a certain Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, including the village of Majdal Shams on the slopes of Mt. Hermon, in exchange for a nonbelligerence pact?

[Ben-Aharon] I suggest that we stop toying with all sorts of proposals making the rounds both here and in Jerusalem and leave the negotiation to the dialogue between us and the Syrians. When white smoke comes out, the entire Israeli people will know what happened.

[Golan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, this question does not pertain to the talks you will conduct with the Syrians. In principle, has the Israeli delegation received any new directives or guidelines concerning autonomy whereby we are no longer willing to discuss a strong local police force in the territories during the autonomy period? Reports to this effect were published in the Israeli press this morning.

[Ben-Aharon] I reiterate: I see no sense in dwelling on the fine print of the substance of the negotiations. We have not yet started to negotiate. I can say with absolute certainty that all the reports are totally unfounded. The negotiation should be left in the hands of Rubinstein, Ben-Aharon, Hadas, and Lubrani. God willing, we will yet reach an understanding in the talks with our neighbors.

[Golan] Will we agree to conduct separate negotiations with the Palestinian delegation? As you know, a special room has been prepared here to that end.

[Ben-Aharon] We heard that separate rooms have been prepared for the Jordanians and the Palestinians. There is no basis for such a move. We started with a joint delegation in Madrid, and we will insist that it remain one delegation. If subcommittees are set up, these will discuss specific issues if necessary. In that case, their composition will be determined according to the topic of discussion and not according to an arbitrary division between the Jordanian and Palestinian components.

[Golan] Do you know the exact agenda? How long will the Israeli delegation stay here? When will you fly back home?

[Ben-Aharon] As far as the agenda is concerned: According to plans, we will apparently start meeting only on Tuesday because the Arabs refused to start the talks tomorrow, Monday, due to all sorts of excuses. I think these are only a response to the fact that we did not show up here on 4 December, and they are also using the excuse of the anniversary of the intifadah. What happens next is subject to our own decision or to an agreement between us and the our Arab interlocutors.

Rubinstein on Talks Format

TA0812141691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli team to the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by political correspondent Natan Gutman at the Madison Hotel in Washington—recorded "a few minutes ago"]

[Text] [Gutman] Elyaqim Rubinstein, as the man in charge of the team for the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation: Will there be one or two delegations?

[Rubinstein] We have come to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. As for the agenda of the

talks in the future, what will be discussed and how, whether there will be subcommittees or different work teams for various issues inside that delegation, and so forth.... [changes thought] True, these are two-track negotiations in the sense that we have to discuss peace treaties with Jordan while formulating interim accords with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This is clear, and it is part of the framework. However, the way in which this will be discussed and under what frameworks—work groups, committees, or subcommittees—will have to be agreed upon with us.

The name of the game is agreement. Whoever wants to negotiate with us—and we have come prepared to hold practical negotiations—will have to conduct the talks out of agreement.

Netanyahu: Country Wants Few Meetings

TA0812080991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington by Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] If the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation expects us in two separate rooms, what will Israel do? Will we quit?

[Netanyahu] That has not entered our minds. We have set a framework for these talks, and it cannot be changed every minute. The rules are clear, as is Israel's position. I do not think there is any realistic expectation that a trick will be pulled on us, if I may use that expression. I do not believe they will manage to do that, or that we will accept it. Neither will happen.

[Dan] Because of Israel's demand that the United States abstain from making decisions for us, there is an impression that the United States prefers that we conclude matters directly with the Arab delegations. Do you see that as feasible? You mentioned an unanswered telephone call. Is there any kind of direct dialogue between us and the Arab delegation, now that everyone is in Washington, or is everything passing through the U.S. go-between?

[Netanyahu] Right now I can tell you that the Arabs are still refusing to maintain direct contacts over this. However, we have been successful in one thing, I think, and have managed to drive home to them that even if they use the services of a mediator now, the mediator no longer dictates. That situation no longer exists, so that if they expected Israel simply to be summoned and forced to do things and bow to certain terms—beginning with conditions on the time and place and extending to far more substantial matters—I believe this expectation is gradually being erased from the Arab delegates' minds. We have still not reached a direct meeting, which I presume we will have later this week, but we have managed to hammer in the message that the prime minister called important. I can now report to you and the listeners most conclusively that the message has penetrated both the U.S. Administration, which is not too strongly opposed to it, and many others, which both accept it and honor it.

[Dan] Mr. Netanyahu, why has the Israeli delegation announced that it will return home Friday?

[Netanyahu] I think we said, and continue to say all the time, that we will come for a small number of meetings—one, two, or three. I am not setting a final date to return home, but, fundamentally, it will be very difficult to make progress on the substantive issues—assuming the procedural issues have been resolved—without establishing some framework to report back to the decision-makers and update them. It is simply impossible at such a distance.

[Dan] The question is....

[Netanyahu, interrupting] Seventy people are expected here tomorrow. Enormous logistical issues are involved, the most important of which is immediate, frequent consultation with the prime minister and the senior ministers in Israel to get directives for the negotiations, which may be the most crucial ones for Israel since the Camp David accords.

[Dan] Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, thank you very much.

[Netanyahu] Shalom.

U.S. Talks To Continue if Arabs Insist

TA0912060291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] In Washington, the bilateral talks between the Israeli and the Arab delegations will open at 10 AM Eastern Standard Time, that is, 5 PM in Israel. The meetings will be held in the State Department. Today, the Bush administration will make a last-minute effort to organize meetings between the delegations to discuss procedures, so that tomorrow's talks can focus on substance.

Israeli Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein spoke on the telephone with the head of the Jordanian delegation and offered to meet him, but the Jordanian official did not reply. More from Connie Lon in the U.S. capital:

[Begin recording] [Lon] If the Arab delegations actually sit down and talk substance with the Israeli representatives, it could be an historic occasion. The head of Israel's delegation to the Lebanese is Dr. Yosef Hadas, director general of the Foreign Ministry. He says he hopes the parties will talk to each other and deal directly with matters of substance. We asked him about comments made earlier by Secretary Baker:

Secretary Baker said on Sunday that he does not think the talks will break off this week. Are you as optimistic as he is?

[Hadas] I am not pessimistic; I am not optimistic; I am quite realistic. I go back to what I told you, really. I do hope, sincerely, that the behavior of the Arab delegations will be, is going to be quite different from what it was in Madrid. Because in Madrid, what happened? We addressed each other, we listened to each other, but we did not talk to each other. So, let us start talking now.

[Lon] Dr. Hadas adds: Israel does want to move the talks to the region, but will continue to hold them in Washington, if the Arabs refuse. He said if the Arabs are ready to move, the Israelis will do so immediately.

Dr. Hadas also said he hopes media coverage in the Arab countries will reflect that talks are going on. This was not always the case during the Madrid talks, when some cut off their coverage when Prime Minister Shamir spoke. The director general of the Foreign Ministry also said venue is an important part of the talks and is an issue of substance. He said the talks must be seen by the people of the region. Arab public opinion must understand that talks are in progress, and Arabs and Israelis are actually negotiating face-to-face. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Talks

TA0812063791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, one of the leading delegates to negotiations with Israel, said the Palestinian delegation will come to the Washington negotiations this week with extremist opening demands, although it will be prepared for compromises later on. Speaking in Haifa last night, on the fourth anniversary of the intifadah, al-Husayni said he believes it may well continue because there is provocation from both sides. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling heard him at Tzavta hall:

[Begin recording] [Schmerling] Faysal al-Husayni said the purpose of the bilateral talks in Washington is to prepare the ground for a real peace move. He explained that Israel, in order to make peace possible, must first cease settlement activity and change its harsh approach toward residents of the territories, as this feeds the extremists on the Arab side.

[Al-Husayni] The message from Israel should be: We understand that a new era has dawned; we understand your desire for real peace. This will allow us to be stronger vis-a-vis our people.

[Schmerling] One thing should be clear. The Palestinian delegation will come to the negotiating table in Washington armed with extremist demands. Yet these will only be its opening positions, after which there will be compromising. This is the nature of negotiations, said al-Husayni.

What about the link between the Palestinian delegation and the PLO leadership in Tunis? It has never been stronger, he replied.

[Al-Husayni] Today we see the epitome of the strong ties between people outside, the PLO, and people here. These ties are extremely strong and open.

[Schmerling] Overall, Faysal al-Husayni presented a moderate picture. The Palestinian Covenant no longer exists, he said. This does not have to be announced out loud, he added, as activities in the field and the peace negotiations constitute the real proof that it no longer exists.

At the same time, he was very cautious and said: I am in the leadership, and every word I utter may be held against me. He avoided answering the question of why he did not join the team in Washington, saying: There is a division of roles, and my place is here. He ended by saying that he spreads the dream of a regional peace, a confederation with Israel, and broad and comprehensive cooperation. Things have changed among us as well, he promised. [end recording]

HA'ARETZ Interviews 'Urayqat

TA0812110291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Dec 91 p A2

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation, by Ori Nir at the Grand Hotel in Washington "over the weekend"]

[Text] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian delegation in Washington, dismisses the Israeli demand that he not be included in the Palestinian negotiating team, and he accuses the Israeli Government of attempting to torpedo the peace process.

Interviewed by HA'ARETZ over the weekend, 'Urayqat said: "It was not the Israelis who appointed me to the delegation, and they will not be the ones to remove me." As will be recalled, 'Urayqat said in a television interview a few days prior to the Madrid conference that the PLO had appointed the members of the Palestinian delegation and that the team constitutes a "PLO delegation."

Interviewed in his room at the Grand Hotel in Washington, 'Urayqat said the Israeli demand that he be excluded from the Palestinian negotiating team is another in a series of Israeli attempts to "torpedo the process." He maintains that "the Israeli side evinces an absolute lack of seriousness. There is an attempt to sabotage the process rather than deal with serious, substantive matters, and avoid taking advantage of this historic opportunity."

'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating team's steering committee and the Palestinian delegate on the limited forum of the Arab delegations to Washington, avoided stating explicitly that he would remain on the team at all costs, even if Israel insists that he stay out of it. He avers that "there are greater problems than whether Sa'ib 'Urayqat participates or not."

The Palestinian delegate said: "They (the Israelis) are trying to raise problems, and I am a small problem." Asked whether he might consider not participating in the Palestinian negotiating team, he answered: "Why should I contemplate that? The Israelis did not appoint me, and they will not dismiss me. Still, I am the last person in the world who would want to jeopardize this process."

He expressed surprise at the Israeli demand, commenting: "There are Israeli delegates about whom one can say a lot of things. My hands, at least, are not stained with anyone's blood." Asked to elaborate on his comment, he said: "Neither I nor my comments can be compared to someone who shoots at individuals waving olive branches or to someone who sets up new settlements."

Dr. 'Urayqat, a political science professor at al-Najah University in Nablus, charges Israel with "political blindness." He noted that Israeli governments have always wanted to negotiate directly, face-to-face, with the Arabs. "Now, however, when the Arabs await them to engage in direct talks, the Israeli Government is hesitating," he said.

'Urayqat claims that "the Israeli Government is trying to shatter hopes and to break the moderate political line" among the Palestinian population. "People (in the territories) are beginning to ask: 'What kind of peace are you talking about?' It seems to me that Shamir's goal is to wreck the atmosphere of peace and undermine the moderate line. If he persists unimpeded, clearly he will succeed."

'Urayqat expressed great apprehension about the political ramifications of the situation in which the aspiration of the territories' inhabitants for a political settlement are thwarted. He observed: "Shamir is pushing both the Israelis and the Palestinians into a sea of blood, and if he thinks they can swim in it, he is politically blind. We can only drown in it."

Asked what could persuade the residents of the territories not to be swept into political radicalization and to avoid turning their backs on the political process, 'Urayqat stated his belief that the minimal prerequisite is for Israel to realize that the "interim period is linked to the permanent settlement," and that "the (Palestinians') self-governing authority should be a real self-governing authority" that will not be subordinate to Israel's administration or bureaucracy.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat expressed disappointment over the media coverage of Israel's absence from the talks last Wednesday. "I asked myself: What would have happened had the Palestinians or the Syrians failed to show up for the talks? How would the media have behaved then?" 'Urayqat does not share the view that prevailed among the Palestinian delegates in Washington that a scheme was concocted between the U.S. Administration and the media to decrease the coverage of Israel's absence from the talks.

'Urayqat expressed disappointment over the low-key, restrained wording chosen by State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler in commenting on Israel's absence from the talks last Wednesday and on the establishment of the new settlement at Tapuah junction.

In view of the obvious absence of PLO men from Washington—with the exception of deportee Akram Haniyah—'Urayqat was asked whether the PLO members have a substantial say in the Palestinian decision-making process. His response: "Even if the facts are ignored, this does not mean that they do not exist." Asked what facts he had in mind, he stated only: "You are a journalist; why don't you try to find out?"

'Urayqat spared no criticism of the U.S. Administration. He expressed deep annoyance over the fact that the administration failed to issue a larger number of entry visas to members of the Palestinian diaspora who wished to participate in the advisory council affiliated with the Palestinian negotiating team. "I hope the Americans will think about the spirit of peace and view these visas as entry visas to peace," he said.

Arab Delegations To Begin Talks 10 Dec

JN0712190191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Excerpt] In Washington, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks, has announced that the Arab delegations have decided to go to U.S. State Department next Tuesday [10 December] to begin bilateral negotiations with the Israeli delegation. [passage omitted]

Meet To Unify Positions

JN0712100391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Dec 91 pp 1, 16

[SAWT AL-SHA'B team report from Washington]

[Excerpt] A highly placed Palestinian source has revealed that the Palestinian delegation yesterday rejected a U.S. request to hold direct contacts with the Israelis before the official start of the bilateral talks, which are expected to begin on Tuesday [10 December].

During a meeting with members of the joint Arab coordination committee in Washington, following a meeting held by the heads of the four Arab delegations to discuss the issue of resuming the negotiations torpedoed by the Israelis last Wednesday, SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that an agreement was reached to unify the Arab position to deal with any fresh developments in the negotiations. This agreement includes the following five points:

1. The Arab delegations have arrived in Washington with a serious intention to achieve peace.

2. Israel is the one that obstructed the resumption of negotiations.

3. The cosponsors of the negotiations should assume their responsibility with regard to the Israeli procrastination to begin talks.

4. A call on the United States to hold the negotiations in Washington and to hold the first meeting at the same time for all of the delegations, but in separate rooms.

5. The Arab delegations are fully prepared to respond to any other invitation from the cosponsoring states, with the exception of Monday, since this day has been set for the performance of prayers for the souls of the intifadah martyrs. [passage omitted]

Head of Syrian Delegation Interviewed

NC0612184391 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to peace talks, in Washington on 6 December by MBC correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi—recorded]

[Text] [Al-'Allaf] Monday [9 December] is not accepted by the Arab delegations because it is not the date fixed for the start of the talks and because Israel has tried to impose this date on the other parties. In addition, it is the anniversary of the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

[Fahmi] Have you noticed any change in the U.S. Administration's stand on fixing the date for the start of the talks?

[Al-'Allaf] We cannot say that we have noticed a change of mind on the part of the United States, the sponsor of the conference. We cannot judge matters on the basis of what happens in one or two days. We can judge a process which has lasted nine months. President Bush, Secretary of State Baker, U.S. officials, and Soviet Officials have done their utmost and have carried out several trips so that we could reach the present stage. Regrettably, Israel is trying to obstruct the conference as it tried to do in Madrid.

[Fahmi] Why does Israel reject the continuation of the talks in Washington?

[Al-'Allaf] Strangely enough, Israel should have welcomed Washington as a venue for the bilateral talks and should not have raised such obstacles. This is because the special relationship between the United States and Israel is well-known. Israel enjoys several centers of pressure and influence here in the U.S. capital that the Arabs do not enjoy. Therefore, the main purpose is not Israel's dissatisfaction with Washington as a venue or with the date of the talks. The real purpose is to obstruct the peace process, prolong the procedures, and waste time. Israel wants to achieve its well-known goals before we enter into any serious talks.

[Fahmi] Will Syria participate in the Moscow talks on 18 January?

[Al-'Allaf] Syria believes that one day we should start multilateral talks that secure cooperation in the region on all matters. However, Syria opposes the timing of these talks. When we achieve essential and concrete progress in the bilateral talks to solve the real causes of the conflict, then and only then we can speak about cooperation.

Al-'Allaf: Venue Should Not Change

JN0612193991 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, Syria's chief delegate to the second round of the peace conference, has announced that setting a new date for talks is up to the United States and the Soviet Union, as cosponsors. Mr. al-'Allaf told a news conference in Washington yesterday that as soon as a new date is set—assuming it is deemed appropriate—the Syrian Arab delegation will be available for talks.

Mr. al-'Allaf addressed the obstacles created by Israel to abort the peace process by contriving problems over marginal matters. He said Israel's performance during and after the Madrid conference proves that it is not serious about peace. The Israelis obstructed the Madrid talks under the pretext that the Spanish capital did not suit them, saying that it is too far away for them—which it is not—and when the cosponsors issued invitations for another time and place, the Israelis likewise claimed that Washington is too far away. If Washington is too far for them, it is not any nearer for us, Mr. al-'Allaf noted. It is no exaggeration to say that they should feel more comfortable in Washington than we do. Mr. al-'Allaf emphasized that the Syrian Arab delegation went to Washington to conduct substantive talks based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and will not accept a change of venue before tangible results are achieved and the approval of all parties is obtained. He said: We do not think that the peace process should move around like a circus, from town to town and from country to country. The issue is too serious for it to be handled in such a manner, especially given that Middle East peace concerns the entire world, not just the region, al-'Allaf declared.

More on al-Majali's Talks With U.S. Aide

JN0612133091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Late last night Amman time, Jordan's chief delegate to the peace talks, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, conferred with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, about the possible continuation of bilateral talks, to which Jordan is already committed. Dr. al-Majali told Mr. Djerejian that Jordan was committed to the bilateral talks and was prepared to join a meeting set for next Tuesday to discuss the matter. Al-Majali explained why Jordan had stayed away from the bilateral peace talks, which were supposed to be held yesterday. He said that Jordan was acting in line with the Arab position not to embarrass the United States as a

result of Israel's failure to show up and its disrespect for the wishes of the cosponsors of the conference.

Mr. Djerejian lauded the positions adopted by the Arab delegations, especially that of Jordan. However, he indicated that the United States sees no need to fix a new date for the start of the bilateral talks, as this might create complications for the peace process. This was pointed out by State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler at a press conference yesterday, Djerejian noted.

Jordanian Spokesman on Talks

JN0812071691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, press spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, by correspondent George Tarif in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tarif] Dr. Marwan, the place of residence of the Jordanian delegation yesterday witnessed intensive contacts. A meeting of delegation heads was held, and Dr. al-Majali received the Soviet envoy. How do you assess these contacts?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The truth is that these contacts fall within the framework of continuous consultations being held by the heads and members of the Arab delegations. As you know, the main topic now on the agenda is the date of the second stage of talks. The heads of the delegations agreed that the Arab delegations would go on Tuesday, since the U.S. invitation is open for any time after 4 December, to resume the direct talks with Israel.

[Tarif] Dr. Marwan, is there a joint agreement among the Arab delegations on the issues that will be discussed in the first session of talks?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] As you know, each delegation has its own topics for discussion. The issues cannot be the same for all the Arab delegations. There is full agreement on the issues each side intends to discuss, however, especially the Jordanian-Palestinian side since it is a joint delegation. There is also agreement to maintain Washington as the venue for the negotiations, and to begin talks immediately on substantive rather than procedural issues. Some heads of delegations said that some procedural issues will be discussed. As you know, the Israeli side wants to move the talks from Washington. We do not accept that, and we insist on Washington as the venue for the negotiations. Hence, if the issue is going to be related to changing the venue, we are not ready to discuss it. If we were to talk about the agenda of work and sessions, however, that of course is something else and is within the context of preparing for the substantive issues. What is important is to discuss the pending issues between the Arab delegations and Israel, and not search for another venue.

[Tarif] What are the most important issues the Jordanian delegation will discuss?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] There are a number of issues of interest to the Jordanian side. These include: the Jordanian land occupied by Israel, other than the West Bank; the issue of refugees; the water issue, which as you know is a major topic for Jordan with regard to water distribution between Israel and Jordan; and the issue of settlements, which, if not halted, no peaceful solution can be attained, because the facts on the ground change on a daily basis. We cannot talk about any solution without a halt to these settlements. Other bilateral issues will be discussed.

[Tarif] Thank you, Dr. Marwan.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Thank you.

'Ashrawi on Israeli 'Media Tricks'

JN0612194491 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Statement by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, to unidentified reporters in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] There have been Palestinian-U.S. meetings during which the Palestinian position concerning the Israelis' absence, and Israel's noncommitment to even the barest level of morals necessary for these negotiations, was clearly and frankly presented. An Israeli official comes to Washington, holds a press conference, and tries to play media tricks, while the Arab delegations sit there without a single attempt by any Israeli to come and apologize or justify their absence. We told the United States that these tricks are now exposed and constitute an insult to the cosponsors, and that the sponsoring countries have the responsibility of following up these issues firmly by adopting a frank and clear position toward the repeated Israeli attempts to insult the peace process itself, to torpedo its principles, and to challenge international will.

On Possible Talks in Europe

NC0812195591 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, by unidentified MBC Television correspondent in Washington, date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] The days in which Shamir or the Israeli side used to impose their priorities or positions on the peace process or even on the world are over. This matter is no longer the sole province of Israel. Several countries are participating in the process. There are countries overseeing it. There are public bases for these negotiations, including Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, and international law. All these points constitute the general framework and foundations on

which we joined these negotiations. No single party has the right to dictate unilaterally its wishes or determine the bases by itself.

[Correspondent] What is your response to the Israeli call for halting the intifadah as a Palestinian gesture of goodwill to improve the political climate of the negotiations?

['Ashrawi] First of all, the intifadah is not a winning card, or a bargaining chip, as they say. It is not subject to negotiation. The intifadah is the Palestinian masses' natural response to the unnatural, unjust, and painful condition of occupation. As long as the causes of the intifadah exist, the intifadah will continue.

[Correspondent] What are the tangible results you hope the negotiations will produce before they are transferred to the region?

['Ashrawi] In reality we, the Palestinians, do not want to return to the region to hold the negotiations there because we are a people living under occupation. The point is to end the occupation. After the occupation ends, after Israel withdraws, and we achieve a degree of compatibility, we can continue the negotiations over issues of development and the future. As long as we are living under occupation, we cannot negotiate with the occupying power. In practice, however, it is possible to consider a closer region if they want, although geographical proximity is a feeble excuse. Europe, for example.

[Correspondent] Will you, God willing, participate in the Moscow talks on 28 January?

['Ashrawi] In the first place, we cannot attend multilateral negotiations unless the Arab situation passes the stage of divisions, misunderstanding, and other issues that require a remedy. We must attend these talks after we achieve a coordinated Arab position. We must have a seven-party summit before the multilateral negotiations. There must also be better Palestinian representation. We must see progress in the bilateral talks. Actually, despite the ongoing inter-Arab coordination and agreement over substantive issues, each Arab party will still have its particular areas of concern. These particular concerns must be preserved. The Syrian position does not say we reject... ['Ashrawi changes thought] The Syrians do not object in principle to the multilateral negotiations, but they do want the bilateral talks to produce concrete results. This is understandable to all the Arab parties. There is no substantial difference on this point.

On Palestinian-Jordanian Coordination

JN0812142891 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 8 Dec (PETRA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, has said that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has been formed according to a comprehensive political agreement between Jordan and the PLO and that this agreement contains political principles, a long-term perspective, and cooperation mechanisms, including the structure of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

In an interview with PETRA, she added that this is an internal agreement that does not concern the Americans or the Israelis, but deals with Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and solidarity, in addition to the fact that it is an official bilateral agreement, noting that the U.S. Government has recognized this agreement.

She said: The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation consists of two independent entities: Jordan, an independent and sovereign state; and us, the Palestinians. Although we are under occupation, we will not relinquish our identity, willpower, or leadership. However, this does not negate the presence of many issues of mutual interest.

She indicated that the letter of invitation to the conference specified that negotiations will be held on two tracks—a Palestinian-Israeli track and an Arab-Israeli track.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said Arab coordination is continuing and that the Arab states have agreed not to adopt separate positions. Coordination, she said, includes strategic and principled positions, and the Arab delegations hold daily meetings to review any changes and variables.

In an answer to a question regarding the possibility of direct contact with the Israeli occupation authorities, she said: For a long time the Israelis have been seeking direct channels of contact. They have also been demanding direct channels since the start of the peace process. The Americans have also suggested such channels. We say that such channels with the occupation authorities cannot be opened because the issue of the unequal relationship between the occupying force and the people under occupation cannot be consecrated and involved in the negotiations.

She added: This process is a political one and the issue of negotiations requires an official framework. It also requires getting rid of the closeness that is imposed on us as people under occupation. Therefore, we should remain at a distance and talk about peace in a distant place, so that we can talk as equals and as a national party which has its own viewpoint, independence, and sovereignty—at least an independence of thinking and national will.

Regarding the multilateral talks, she said that the cosponsors are concerned with these talks and that even before the beginning of the Madrid peace conference there had been Arab talks in this regard. However, she said, a unified Arab position has yet to materialize because this depends on a number of issues, including what will happen during the bilateral talks.

She added that the mere fixing of a date and venue for these talks does not call for much optimism on our part, because what concerns us is what will take place on the

ground, noting that the first session of multilateral talks will be a formal one to define procedural issues. She expressed her belief that the procedural issues will not be discussed until next March.

Concerning the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, she said that according to the Palestine National Council's resolution, the issue of a confederation was discussed as part of the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination; there is agreement, she added, to solidify this issue and lay down its foundations within a political and principled agreement reached between the PLO and Jordan. She indicated that the existence of the issue of confederation within the Palestinian political program and the future Jordanian political concept will require work and coordination at every step.

She added that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is historically distinguished and will remain so in the future, because there are numerous common issues that should be discussed and which are related to the bilateral stage—including water, electricity, open markets, and imports and exports—which can be discussed during the transitional period.

As for the strategy of negotiations, the negotiating delegations, and ways of presenting the issues and defining priorities, she said that these are issues related to national positions, constants, and rights, and it is possible to discuss these issues in general—but it is not possible to talk about ways of practically translating them into a negotiating position or priorities to be discussed during the negotiations.

She said that Israeli settlement construction is an illegal and illegitimate act that defines the outcome of the talks before they have even started, noting that the Israeli practices are not negotiable at all and that the peace conference cosponsors know and understand this.

She also said that stopping settlement construction is not a precondition for the talks, nor is it a negotiable issue.

Says Israel Wants To 'Torpedo' Process

NC0812080791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] What has happened so far reflects and exposes Israel's real intentions regarding the process. Israel is trying to torpedo the process by wasting time, preoccupying us with secondary issues and not entering into the essential issue, and by attempting to challenge the United States, the (?sponsor) states, and international law. It also is seeking to gain time to create a fait accompli in the occupied areas which would perhaps be difficult to change or include in the political formula.

[Correspondent] Following what happened, there is fear about the fate of the talks and doubt about their achieving success or any goal. Are you optimistic that these talks, when they begin, will achieve something?

['Ashrawi] The talks are part or an aspect of the comprehensive Palestinian struggle. It is wrong to imagine that the talks or the negotiations are the only way to achieve independence, freedom, or ending the occupation. But this is one of the methods of political struggle adopted by the Palestinian people. We do not place all our hopes in one process. The intifadah is continuing and the Palestinian struggle is continuing. Efforts must be made on all levels.

Delegate Wants U.S. 'Arbitrator' Role

NC0812145091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Report on interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, with correspondent Nuhad al-Mayik in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, has stated that Israel will a adopt a hard line during the coming negotiations and that Washington's professed contributing role will not help in the process. 'Abd al-Shafi spoke to our correspondent in Washington, Nuhad al-Hayik:

[Al-Hayik] If the question of fixing a new date for resuming negotiations is resolved, it will not be the last problem; it is probably one in a series of future problems between the Israeli and Arab delegations. Once the question of the resumption date is settled, other questions will arise, such as the agenda and then the venue of negotiations. Israel wants to move the venue to the Middle East after some preliminary meetings, whereas Arabs insist that Washington should continue to be the venue. Furthermore, the dispute on defining the U.S. role in the negotiations could crop up again in later stages. Thus far, Israel has been demanding that the U.S. role be neutral, while the Arabs insist that the United States play an active role. One of the basic obstacles that almost torpedoed the talks before they even began is the Israeli and Arab stands on the U.S. role. To what extent can the United States continue to play an active role? Commenting on this point, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said:

['Abd al-Shafi] This is the question that is being asked. The United States says that its stand, or role, will be a helping one, as they say, a catalyst [last word in English]. Our preliminary view is that Israel will adopt a hard line. If it indeed adopts such a stand, the catalyst role would be to no avail in the process. The United States must adopt a more progressive stand than that of a catalyst or contributing role; it must adopt the stand of an arbitrator [last word in English], or that of a referee, or even something more. The future will decide all these matters. We have to wait and see what the U.S. stand will be when

things come to a halt or do not progress. As long as we are in Washington, which has been chosen as the venue for starting the bilateral negotiations, the united view of the Arab delegations is that we should remain in Washington and not move to another location. If progress is achieved during the negotiations, moving the negotiations to another location will be considered. Before this happens, moving the negotiations from Washington will not be considered. Our stand is that the negotiations must continue in Washington until progress is achieved.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Meets on Lockerbie Issue

Declares 'Solidarity' With Libya

LD0612173491 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, al-Kanoun (Dec) 6, JANA/Arab Maghreb Union pool—In accordance with the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab Defence Pact, the Arab League issued a unanimous decision declaring its solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in its confrontation of the U.S.- British threats. This took place during an emergency session held by the Arab League Council in Cairo yesterday.

The Arab League Council confirmed its satisfaction for the initiatives made by the Great Jamahiriyah to contain the crisis and the call for conducting an international enquiry regarding the U.S.-British allegations.

The resolution of the Arab League stressed the need to abide by Article 52 of the United Nations Charter, and by the text of Arab League Charter to settle international disputes by peaceful means so as not to endanger international peace and security.

The resolution affirmed the solidarity of the Arab League with the Great Jamahiriyah and praised its response aimed at revealing all facts and adoption of the quiet and constructive dialogue as means to contain the crisis. The text of the Arab League resolution is as follows:

1. Confirms the solidarity with sisterly Libya and praises its response in order to reveal the facts regarding this deplorable incident.

2. Calls for forming a joint United Nations and Arab League committee to study all documents related to the case, in accordance with the established co-operation between the two organisations, and the possiblity of admitting other parties as observers.

3. Providing all means required for the success of the committee mission.

4. Assigns the secretary general to follow-up the execution of this resolution and considers the council in a state of continued session to monitor the developments of the situation.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al Majid, the secretary general of the Arab League, confirmed that 21 Arab countries were unanimous regarding the Arab League resolution and that they adopted a unified stance and said that was spectacular. The secretary general of the Arab League added that such stances will be positively considered by the others. He confirmed that all states seek a peaceful solution for this crisis, which is taken by the the U.S. and Britain as an alibi for threats against Libya. He stressed that everyone was acting to contain the crisis.

In his statement, the secretary general indicated that the acceptance of all Arab states for the Great Jamahiriyah demand to hold this urgent session and the arrival of all state representatives meant that there was complete response to listen to the Libyan point of view and appreciate the balanced and rational stance adopted by the Great Jamahiriyah since the crisis began.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid concluded his statement saying that the Arab League has the right, according to its charter, to intervene and settle the disputes that occur in the area which could threaten peace and security.

Proposal on Protection of Suspects

NC0612191391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—The magazine UKTUBAR has reported that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held contacts last week with foreign ambassadors in Cairo, primarily the U.S. ambassador and accredited ambassadors of the countries implicating Libya in the downing of the "Pan American" aircraft which blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

In its issue on Sunday, 8 December, UKTUBAR says the contacts dealt with various approaches to resolving the U.S-Libyan dispute within the framework of international legitimacy, containing it, and avoiding any further escalation.

The magazine refers to an Arab proposal by which Libya agrees to send the two Libyans accused of blowing up the plane to a neutral national capital, Switzerland or Sweden, under UN custody for interrogation by an international judicial panel, provided that the United Nations guarantees their protection during their travel and stay.

Council To Meet on Lockerbie 9 Dec

NC0812155591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the Arab League Council will hold a meeting at the permanent representatives level on 9 December at the Arab League General Secretariat in Cairo. During tomorrow's meeting, the conferees will discuss the latest developments in the situation with regard to the U.S.-British accusations against two Libyan nationals charged with blowing up a U.S. civil airliner over Scotland in 1988.

The Arab League Council met on Thursday at the permanent representatives level at Libya's request and decided to stay in session to follow up developments in the situation. The council has entrusted the secretary general with following up developments in this regard.

The Arab League Council issued a statement in which it called for the formation of a joint UN-Arab League

committee to study all documents pertaining to the incident based on their cooperation. Other sides could be accepted as observers.

In its statement, the council called for avoiding any economic or military actions against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, which would further complicate the tense situation between the United States, Britain, and Libya.

Meeting Postponed to Await Dakar Outcome

NC0912123791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League Council meeting scheduled to be held at the permanent representatives level today to discuss developments in the crisis between the United States and Britain and Libya has been postponed.

A responsible source at the Arab League General Secretariat has said that the postponement was decided on after consultations among permanent delegates who want to wait for the outcome of Arab ministers' consultations in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit meeting which is scheduled to begin later today.

The source said that at its meeting last Thursday the Arab League Council decided to continue its session indefinitely. He said the council's decision has been referred to the Arab foreign ministers. They will discuss the situation during their consultations on the sidelines of the ICO summit.

The source noted that the outcome of these consultations will be conveyed to the Arab League secretary general through the permament delegates. He said that the council will decide its next step following these consultations.

Arab League Chief, PLO Envoy Meet in Cairo

JN0612182191 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] In Cairo, brother Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member; and 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, have reviewed the recent Palestinian, Arab, and world developments. During a meeting the two held in Cairo, they agreed on the need for enhancing joint coordination and action among various Arab parties to face up to the challenges facing the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by brother Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative; and brother Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt.

OAPEC Meets 7 Dec, Agrees on Headquarters

NC0712212091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1752 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—At its meeting in Cairo today, the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to keep the organization's temporary headquarters in Cairo for one more year until the situation in Kuwait returns to normal and circumstances are favorable for the return of the organization to its permanent headquarters in Kuwait.

In a statement at the end of its meeting, the council endorsed the OAPEC Secretariat's 1.22 million Kuwaiti dinar budget. It also endorsed the organization's judicial committee's 156,700 Kuwaiti dinar budget.

The council urged the member countries to continue their support for the Arab maritime transportation academy.

It was decided that Algeria will chair the organization's next session, which will be held in the country where OAPEC's headquarters is located after consultations between the organization's chairman and secretary general on a date for the meeting.

The participants expressed their appreciation to the Egyptian president, government, and people.

Further on Decisions

NC0712213291 Paris AFP in English 2005 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, Dec 7 (AFP)—Arab oil ministers turned down Kuwaiti demands that a training institute for petroleum workers be transferred out of Iraq and decided to maintain the facility in Baghdad, a source close to the session said Saturday.

The ministers, representing the 10-member Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), also decided at a meeting here to keep OAPEC headquarters in Cairo, where it was transferred from Kuwait after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of the emirate.

A communique issued after the meeting said the headquarters would be returned to Kuwait in January 1993.

But conference sources reported that Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti clashed with Kuwaiti counterpart Hamud al-Ruqba on the future location of the Arab Petroleum Institute.

Al-Ruqba warned that Kuwait would refuse to contribute funds to the institute as long as it was based in Baghdad and sought its transfer to another Arab capital.

A vote on the matter ended in a draw, five members for the move, five against.

But following informal contacts it was decided to maintain the institiute in Baghdad, according to conference sources.

Al-Hiti also reiterated Iraq's refusal to implement a United Nations resolution restricting its oil sales and earmarking a portion of the revenue for the purchase of basic food and medicine.

Baghad has dismissed the measure as an affront to its national sovereignty.

OAPEC, grouping Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Libya and Algeria, produced 15.8 million barrels of oil a day last year.

Islamic Affairs

Reportage on Dakar Islamic Conference

'Most' Leaders Not To Attend

NC0712200591 Paris AFP in English 1954 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 7 (AFP)—Most Arab heads of state will stay away from an Islamic summit scheduled to open here Monday, Arab diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The only three expected to attend the meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference are King Husayn of Jordan, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the sources said.

The decision not to attend, according to one Arab delegate, could reflect a desire on the part of some leaders to avoid meeting 'Arafat, who sided with Iraq in the Gulf war.

Three Leaders To 'Definitely' Attend

AB0812104191 Paris AFP in English 0827 GMT 8 Dec 91

[By Hala Khoury Boncompagni]

[Text] Dakar, Dec 8 (AFP)—The sixth summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference is set to open here Monday, but key Arab participants will be staying away.

Arab diplomatic sources said here Saturday that only three Arab leaders—King Husayn of Jordan, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi—would be definitely attending the parley, which coincides with the fourth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, as well as most Asian and African leaders were expected in Dakar by Sunday evening.

Saudi King Fahd—who supplied Senegal with a large chunk of the 130 million dollars necessary to build the infrastructure and prepare for the summit—will be sending Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Riyadh announced on Friday. Western diplomats here said the monarch was ill.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is also sick, according to his doctors, who recommended a four-day rest.

Diplomatic sources in Dakar said that King Hassan II of Morocco, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his Mauritanian counterpart Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya had all decided not to attend the summit—the first to be hosted by an African nation since the creation of the OIC in 1971. There was also wide speculation that Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi would not leave home and that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would also stay away.

A member of an Arab delegation said Arab and Gulf leaders want to avoid being at a summit with Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman 'Arafat. The Palestinian leader has recently improved ties with Damascus, but key Arab states in the anti-Iraq coalition—Egypt and Saudi Arabia—have not yet forgiven him for the sympathetic attitude he displayed towards Baghdad during the Gulf crisis.

The PLO has been seeking a summit with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt to coordinate positions on the conflict with Israel in light of the current Middle East peace process. The OIC supports the U.S.-Soviet sponsorship of the Middle East peace conference, which opened in Madrid on October 30. A three-day ministerial conference to hammer out the agenda of the OIC summit was marked by heated debates, with Egypt appealing for a moderately-worded resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Syrian and PLO representatives seeking a strong condemnation of Israel, which they accuse of wanting to torpedo current peace efforts.

Syria also called for Islamic backing for a U.N. General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism, triggering criticism from Egypt. The United States has been leading a campaign to have the resolution rescinded.

The Gulf crisis, the Afghan problem, the Pakistan-Indian dispute over Kashmir and the issue of Muslims in the southern Philippines will also be on the summit's agenda.

Conference sources said the OIC would renew its condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and urge it to comply with United Nations resolutions despite timid attempts by some African states to secure sympathy for Baghdad. The summit is also expected to discuss the new world order, namely the political upheavals in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid of Niger Wednesday said here:

"We must face now the realities and make recommendations." At least two Muslim Soviet republics, Azerbaijan and Khazakistan, will seek full membership in the 44-member OIC, their representatives who came to Dakar with the Iranian delegation said. But an Asian official doubted that membership would be granted just yet. "The OIC will surely think on it but I don't believe they will do more than promise financial aid at this time," he said.

Leaders Arrive 8 Dec

AB0812121291 Paris AFP in French 1021 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Presidents Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau and Sir Dawda Jawara of The Gambia arrived this morning within minutes of each other at Dakar airport, where they were welcomed by President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. They are coming to participate in the sixth summit of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is to begin on Monday, 9 December, in the Senegalese capital. Niger's prime minister had been the first head of government to arrive in Dakar for the summit the evening of 7 December.

[Paris AFP in French at 1123 GMT on 8 December in a Dakar-datelined item adds "Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure, the Malian lead of state, arrived this morning at Dakar airport, where he was welcomed by President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. The Malian leader, who came to power on 26 March, has come to participate in the sixth summit of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is scheduled to start tomorrow."]

Algerian President Arrives

LD0812235591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid arrived this evening in Dakar to participate in the sixth summit of the Islamic Conference Organization which will be begin tomorrow, Monday, in the Senegalese capital. The summit will discuss several areas of interest to the Islamic world, especially after the serious developments that resulted from the Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Arrives

AB0512191691 Dakar PANA in English 1848 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, 5 Dec (APS-SEN [expansion not known]/PANA)—The Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and co-operation, Hasni Ould Didi, arrived in Dakar Thursday to take part in the ministerial conference preparing the 6th summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) due to open in the Senegalese capital Monday.

He is the first Mauritanian minister to step on Senegalese soil since the two countries broke diplomatic relations in August 1989 following the outbreak of the Senegal-Mauritania inter-ethnic fighting in April 1989.

Ould Didi, who missed Thursday's opening of the OIC ministerial meeting, is leading a delegation, whose members include two advisers to Mauritanian president, Maauoiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

It was not immediately known whether the Mauritanian president will attend the OIC summit, which will be held in Dakar from 9 December to 12 December 1991.

Al-Qadhdhafi May Attend

LD0712190891 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 7, IRNA—A big ship reportedly to be used as residence for Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is anchored at Dakar with a 150-member delegation on board for the 6th summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The 750,000-ton ship arrived in Dakar a few days ago, and according to a Libyan reporter she is also carrying Libyan aid for Senegal. However, it is not clear whether Col. al-Qadhdhafi will attend the summit.

The government in Senegal has had some hard time trying to lodge foreign envoys here for the OIC, with many Muslim foreign ministers lodged at locations very far from the venue of the OIC conference.

Morroco, too, has offered a 650,000-ton ship to Senegal for lodging purposes. The Morrocan ship is named 'Rief,' after a mountain of the same name in that country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to providing certain aid and assistance has donated 40 pieces of handwoven luxury carpets for the flooring of the prayers hall of the conference. In addition Iran has also made available two large transportation helicopters for the rapid transport to and from the conference of foreign envoys.

Meanwhile, with two days left for the summit to start, security measures are tightening as the conference nears its inauguration. The main hall of the conference is daily checked by security police helped with well-trained tracer dogs that can identify hidden explosives. The security police in Dakar is aided, among others, by French officers.

Foreign ministers of member countries are busy behind closed doors finalizing the agenda for the four day summit.

On Saturday the political, cultural and economic committees of the OIC met at the conference hall here behind close doors.

The political committee today reviewed such topics as the question of Palestine, the aftermath of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the status of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries, and other issues of the Muslim world.

The cultural committee reviewed various issues including the ways and means for fighting off cultural inroads by the West, and the rights of children in Islam. The findings of the cultural and economic committees of the OIC are to be submitted to the Saturday meeting of the OIC ministers, and ratifications by the ministers will be included in the agenda for the upcoming OIC summit conference.

An Arab source at the conference observed that disparities among certain OIC ministers on what should be included in or excluded from the agenda may hinder the drafting of the final resolution of the OIC summit.

The Islamic Republic delegation to the ministerial meet is led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, while President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is also due in Dakar for the summit to start Monday.

Libyan Official Meets Foreign Ministers

LD0612224491 Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, al-Kanoun [December] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau met in Dakar this morning the foreign ministers of: Egypt, Morocco, Iran, Niger, Senegal and Burkina Jamahiriyah who are taking part in the meetings of the Islamic world foreign ministers conference which started yesterday. During these meetings which were held separately they discussed the items laid down in the agenda of the 6th. Islamic summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference which is due to be held from 9 to 12 of this Al-Kanoun month and held consultations on the Islamic issues of mutual interest.

Libya Requests Turkish Mediation With West

TA0712170491 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1600 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Sadettin Tiryakioglu report]

[Text] Dakar (AA)—Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, has declared that Libya expects Turkey's assistance in eliminating the tension between his country and the West.

In a statement to ANATOLIA, al-Bishari noted that a secure Libya is also in Turkey's interest. He said: "The Turks in Libya constitute the largest group of foreigners in the country. In addition to the large numbers of Turkish workers, many Turkish contractors have undertaken various projects in Libya. Therefore, Libya's security closely concerns Turkey as well."

The Libyan foreign minister also emphasized that Turkey, which is a key country in the region, could play a role in the security of the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Meanwhile, during the preparatory meetings for the Islamic Conference Organization summit in Dakar, Libya submitted a draft resolution calling on member countries to support Libya during the current tension between Libya and the Western countries.

Committee Adopts Maghreb Libyan Stand

LD0812012791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization Political Committee held during yesterday evening a closed session during which it adopted a draft resolution proposed by the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] countries on the Lockerbie crisis between Libya on one side and the United States and Britain on the other.

Foreign Minister Mr. Habib Ben Yahya announced that at a meeting held the day before yesterday on the subject of the U.S.-British accusations against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the draft AMU resolution on them, there was coordination among the AMU countries.

On the other hand, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya said that Tunisia has participated in a concentrated way in the discussions about the Islamic communities abroad and how to enable them to obtain their rights.

Ministers Ratify Libyan Resolution

LD0812013491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers have ratified a Libyan draft resolution concerning the existing dispute between Libya on the one side and Britain and the United States on the other.

Libyan Minister Pledges Cooperation

LD0912101791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, 9 Dec (JANA)—Brother Ibrahim al-Bishari, the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, has stated that the U.S. Administration has been brandishing the threat of another act of aggression against the Libyan Arab people. Yet investigations which followed its 1986 act of aggression proved, only one month after that incident of aggression, that the Great Jamahiriyah was innocent of the charges made against it, as the final investigations have proven the innocence of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Speaking before the preparatory meeting of the sixth Islamic summit conference in Dakar, al-Bishari said that the Great Jamahiriyah was now being exposed to threats by the U.S. and British administrations and to an

economic embargo with a view to starving the Libyan Arab people and to military (?aggression) aimed at killing children, women, and the elderly as they have done before on the basis of false allegations. They have now come up with new allegations, claiming that Libya was supporting terrorism and that some of its citizens were involved in the case of the crash of the Pan Am plane over the village of Lockerbie.

We affirm before your conference that Libya is innocent of this accusation and that its policy opposes all forms of terrorism and that it has not and will not link itself with any groups that carry out such inhumane acts, pointing out that Libya itself had been the victim of terorism.

Al-Bishari reaffirmed the Great Jamahiriyah's denunciation of the Pan Am crash over Lockerbie and expressed sympathy with the families of the victims of this regrettable incident.

Brother al-Bishari pointed out that the Great Jamahiriyah has received, from the United States and Britain, two indictments issued against two of the Great Jamahiriyah's citizens. He affirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah will deal positively with these documents in a manner compatible with the rights of sovereignty and the importance of the establishment of justice.

Brother al-Bishari added that the General People's Committee for Justice has appointed a supreme court judge to carry out investigations with the two accused and that this judge has already informed the judicial authorities in the United States and Britain of his readiness as a judge to cooperate with them.

Brother al-Bishari declared that Libya will cooperate fully with the Scottish and U.S. investigators for the sake of finding out the truth, and that Libya was also ready to accept the formation of a neutral international investigative committee. He pointed out that the legal principle that is recognized by all international constitutions and human rights conventions states that "the accused remains innocent until proven guilty."

Brother al-Bishari made it clear in his speech that "according to confirmed information available to him, the investigating judge has remanded the two defendents mentioned in the U.S. and British indictments and kept them in custody as an opening to a serious and responsible investigation; that Libya, before anyone else, finds a sure interest in the importance of attaining the truth; that no one intends to cover up this crime; and that its perpetrators will be given the maximum penalty if proven guilty or will be acquitted if proven not guilty." [no beginning quotations marks as received]

He pointed out that if the matter relates to political disputes between the United States on the one hand and the United Kingdom on the other, an examination of this issue should be carried out on the basis of the UN Charter, which prohibits aggression or threats and which calls for settling disputes by peaceful means. He said that the rejection of both aforementioned means and resorting to communiques and the media not only untruthfully and wrongly affects public opinion, but that these also have an influential impact on investigators, as it prevents them from carrying out their investigation in impartial and neutral circumstances; on judges, who are prevented from carrying out a just prosecution; and on the defendant, who is entitled to a fair and just trial in accordance with essential human rights. He emphasized that on the other hand, the method of communiques, which amounts to a warning and a dictating of conditions, clearly contravenes the UN Charter, a style which is unacceptable and which cannot be asserted in international relations [words indistinct].

Ministers Declare Solidarity With Libya

AB0812141591 Paris AFP in English 1344 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 8 (AFP)—Islamic foreign ministers have expressed "full solidarity" with Libya in its confrontation with the West over the Lockerbie bombing, according to a draft resolution made available Sunday to AFP.

The draft is one of a string of motions to be submitted for approval to Asian, African and Middle East leaders at the sixth summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opening Monday in the Senegalese capital.

"The OIC expresses concern over the escalation of the crisis and the reference to the possible use of force (against Libya) which does not conform with the proper system of dealing with other states," the text said.

It called for "dialogue and negotiations as a means of solving disputes between states" and "reaffirmed full solidarity with Libya." The draft also opposed "economic or military action against Libya."

Tripoli has been under pressure from the United States and Britain to hand over two Libyan agents indicted by both countries for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland that killed 270 people.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari told AFP Friday that the two suspects were in detention in their own country and being interrogated. "They will be given a fair trial under Libya's legal system and if they are proven guilty they will get the harshest sentence befitting their crime," the minister stressed.

The United States and Britain have not ruled out military or other action against Libya unless it extradites the two suspects. But Tripoli has refused, saying it had no extradition agreements with the two countries.

Libya Discussion Extends Session

NC0812075491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] The heads and leaders of the Islamic Conference Organization members are to arrive in the Senegalese capital of Dakar to attend the sixth ICO session. Reports from Dakar state that the ICO member states' foreign ministers will extend their preliminary session by one day.

[Begin recorded telephone report by unidentified correspondent] At the end of their meeting last night, the ministers participating in this preliminary session stated that the ministers' political committee and general assembly are to meet at 1000 local time and 1330 Tehran time [1000 GMT] today to discuss the draft of some remaining resolutions in the political committee, as well as the outcome of the cultural and economic committees' activities and to hand these to the summit for a final decision.

The conference participants noted that discussions on the drafts of some new resolutions, namely on supporting Libya in the face of U.S. and British threats, prolonged yesterday's meeting. The ministers finally approved this draft last night after some new paragraphs were added to it.

An Iranian representative at the conference said that during the meeting today, in addition to studying the report on the cultural and economic committees' activities, the foreign ministers will study approving the drafts of two resolutions proposed by Iran on human rights under Islam and membership in the International Human Rights Committee.

The sixth ICO summit will study the approval of the outcomes of the foreign ministers' preliminary session. The four draft resolutions proposed on Palestine, the resolution on the consequences of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and ways to prevent Iraqi aggression against its neighbors, the drafts of resolutions on activities concerning women's and children's rights in Islam, as well as preparatory steps for creating an Islamic common market are among the drafts that the preliminary conference of the Islamic foreign ministers approved and will submit to the summit for final approval.

According to the session's program, 15 presidents and heads of movements, four prime ministers and vice presidents, several members of revolutionary councils and ministers, and six sultans, a crown prince, and amirs from Islamic countries are to arrive in Dakar.

This is the correspondent sent by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran reporting from Dakar, Senegal.

Summit To View 'Threat' to Libya

AB0912104091 Dakar PANA in French 0934 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, 8 Dec (APS-SEN/PANA)—The sixth summit of the Islamic Conference Organization which opens in Dakar today is expected "to consider that a threat at all times to the security of an Islamic country is a threat to the security of all Islamic countries." The draft final act of the summit prepared by the ministerial conference which ended early yesterday afternoon contains a warning against any recourse to the use of force or threats in relations between states, on the one hand, and a plea for international cooperation on the other. It reaffirms the principle of nonintervention and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states as well as the inviolability of borders of ICO member states.

The draft generally calls for bilateral and multilateral consultations to find a peaceful solution to any differences between ICO member states. According to the preamble of the draft final act, the summit is to solemnly pledge to defend all Islamic causes, to banish poverty, misery, and disease, and to strengthen the scientific and technical capacities of the Islamic ummah [community]. The ICO is also expected to work, in collaboration with the international community to establish for the benefit of the Islamic community and all of humanity, an era of peace, progress, and stability.

The draft final act thus provides for multifaceted economic cooperation, notably the exchange of goods and services. It reaffirms the general principles of cooperation in the fields of information and culture, as well as the need to reinforce the efficiency and performances of the ICO system. The implementation of these principles and recommendations will be entrusted to the ICO chairman for the next three years, President Abdou Diouf, the Senegalese head of state, and to Hamid Algabid of Niger, secretary general of the organization.

Meeting Approves Kashmir, Afghan Drafts

BK0712161691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] A main political committee of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers in Dakar has approved by consensus the drafts of two resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and Afghanistan. The draft resolutions will now be presented for final ratification at the summit meeting beginning on 9 December.

The draft resolution on Jammu and Kashmir has called upon India to honor the human and fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people and to resolve the dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The political committee also ratified a Pakistan-sponsored draft resolution on Afghanistan which calls for accelerating the process of a political settlement of the Afghan issue. The draft resolution, while referring to recent developments, especially the positive outcome of

the Afghan mojahedin's visit to Moscow, has supported the efforts being made by the UN secretary general. It also emphasized the need for the equal involvement of the ICO in the efforts being made in this regard.

The political, economic, and cultural committees set up at the Islamic foreign ministers meeting continued their deliberations for the third day today. The Pakistani delegation on the main political committee is being led by Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs. It is considering a Pakistani draft resolution on the condition of minorities in nonmember countries besides discussing other topics. The committee is expected to approve the draft by this evening. The Pakistani representatives also took an active part in the activities of the economic and cultural committees.

Scrapping of Zionism Resolution Opposed

AB0812141291 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 8 (AFP)—Islamic foreign ministers have endorsed a Syrian-Palestinian motion to oppose the scrapping of a U.N. resolution that equates Zionism with racism, according to a document received here Sunday.

The ministers will submit the document for final approval by heads of state at the summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference that opens in the Senegalese capital on Monday.

It calls on "all peace-loving states which advocate human rights and oppose all forms of racial discrimination to thwart attempts (to annul the resolution) and to keep that resolution until the reasons for its adoption disappear." The draft said the 1975 Zionism resolution should be maintained until Israel ended its repression in the occupied Arab territories.

Israel's representative at the United Nations voiced confidence Thursday that there were enough votes in favour to scrap the resolution, as urged by Washington, before the close of the General Assembly session on December 17. Diplomats here said the 44-member OIC, representing one third of U.N. members, was expected to endorse the foreign ministers' recommendation during their four-day summit.

According to Arab diplomats, Egypt was opposed to the motion and argued it could undermine the Middle East peace process, which is expected to resume this week with bilateral Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. Egypt believed the time was not right to antagonize Israel.

But Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman told AFP that endorsing the OIC motion would not harm the peace process and criticised Israel's "untimely" efforts to have the Zionism resolution repealed.

"For the past 16 years the issue had not been pressed, so this should not be a set condition now," he said. "We would like to see peace first and then anything can be withdrawn. Now the timing is not right. It could come later."

Resolution Supports Palestine, Golan

LD0712213491 Tripoli JANA in English 1704 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Al-Kanoun 7 [December], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Islamic countries' foreign ministers meeting in Dakar asserted in a draft resolution the legitimacy of the struggle being waged by the angry generation through people's committees against Zionist invaders. They called for the total and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionists from all Palestinian land.

The draft resolution affirmed that the Zionists decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights was null and void and without any legal effect. It reaffirmed the sovereign independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

Ministerial Meeting Ends 8 Dec

AB0912102091 Dakar PANA in French 0928 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, 8 Dec (AFP)—The preparatory ministerial meeting of the sixth summit of the Islamic Conference Organization ended its deliberations early this afternoon in the Senegalese capital. The ministers examined "in detail" the documents to be submitted for the consideration of the organization's sovereign leadersn and heads of state and government who are meeting in Dakar as of tomorrow.

In a closing address, the Senegalese foreign minister stated that despite the delicate nature of the subjects discussed, the deliberations took place in a "warm and understanding" atmosphere. He thanked delegates from ICO member states—only Iraq was not represented—for their generosity and availability.

The ICO is now blessed with the necessary intellectual and human capacities to "significantly influence the course of world affairs and history," he said. It is now necessary to be "conscious of this strength," Mr. Ka added. Finally, Mr. Ka said he was convinced that the Dakar summit, the first to be held since the end of the Gulf War, "would constitute a significant episode in the ICO's history."

Velayati on Topics Discussed

LD0612193791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Report from Dakar by unidenfified correspondent]

[Text] On the second day of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' meeting this morning, Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, was one of the most active ministers attending the conference. He held various meetings with ICO foreign ministers, in

particular with the foreign ministers of Algeria, Libya, and [Saudi] Arabia, with whom he held numerous meetings. In connection with the aforementioned meetings, Mr. Velayati, in an exclusive interview with Voice and Vision [Iranian radio and television], said:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is natural for us to hold talks with the foreign ministers of the [ICO] member countries on the sidelines of the international session. I had talks with the foreign ministers of Algeria, Arabia, and Libya concerning the session's agenda and the important issues which were discussed or are to be discussed in the preliminary session of the ICO. It has been decided—and this was a near-unanimous decision by the member foreign ministers—to finalize today all the political issues in the political committee, which will in fact be chaired by the ministers and attended by the experts, and to prepare them for presentation at the summit session. Tomorrow the results of the work of the cultural and economic committees will be deliberated by the ministers, which means that we will finalize the results of the three political, economic, and cultural committees by the end of the working day on Saturday. [end recording]

Details Issues

LD0812212591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Dakar by unidentified radio correspondent in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, would you please tell us about the issues discussed at the ICO foreign ministers session and the stands adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It was decided at the start of the foreign ministerial session to set up three committees—political, economic, and cultural—with each pursuing relevant issues. Talks are to be held between representatives of various countries until the achievement of a final result. In view of the significance of the political issues on the agenda, the political committee is being held at the ministerial level, while the economic and cultural committees are being held at the senior experts' level. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In view of the prevailing climate at the session, how would you evaluate its outcome?

[Velayati] In view of the current global developments and the rapid developments that have occurred in the past three years between the previous and the present summit sessions, it is necessary to arrange for serious discussions to take place between the heads of the Islamic states. Of course, in view of the very difficult circumstances in the Arab world, the weakness prevailing in some of the Arab countries, the highly disappointing situation which exists in a number of Arab countries as a result of the Madrid conference, and the unpalatable stands which these states have adopted, there is not much hope of drawing up serious policies and achieving serious results in the summit session as far as Palestine is concerned, which at present constitutes the most important issue in the Islamic world.

Ths session presents the Islamic Republic of Iran with a very good opportunity for airing its views. Even though its views with regard to the Palestine issue and its decisive declaration in terms of the continuation of the Palestinian people's struggle for the liberation of the Palestinian land and the need for all Muslims' support for the intifadah, until final liberation, are the views of a minority, nevertheless, the convention of the session provides the Islamic Republic and some of the other Islamic countries which likewise support the same revolutionary stands with the opportunity to express their views, if only to stop the West from pretending that the Islamic world supports the Madrid conference or such similar compromises.

Role for Soviet Muslim Republics Sought

LD0612220991 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 6, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today strongly protested what he termed the "biased attitude towards different republics of the Soviet Union," and said the West pursues a "double standard" policy in this regard. Velayati who is attending the 3-day foreign ministerial talks of the 45-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which opened here Thursday, said the viewpoints of the people of those republics should be considered equally.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he said, supports the aspirations of the Muslim-populated republics of the Soviet Union for participating in the OIC, whose summit conference is to start here on Monday. "The Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan have called on Tehran to back their presence at the sixth OIC summit, and because of their friendship with Iran, delegations from the two republics are accompanying the Iranian delegation to the session," he added. However, said Velayati, the Islamic Republic does not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. "We respect any decision which is taken by the people of the Soviet Union and its republics."

Velayati deplored the double standards applied by the West towards the independence of Ukraine and other Soviet republics, and pointed out that the West in fact has a "dual approach" towards the wills and aspirations of various peoples regarding determination of their fates. The Iranian foreign minister was recently on a 10-day visit of the Soviet Union which besides Moscow took him to Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan), Frunze (Kyrgyzstan),

Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Dushambe (Tajikistan), Askhabad (Turkmenistan) and Baku (Azerbaijan).

Asked by IRNA on the so-called Arab-Israeli peace rounds, Velayati said Iran categorically opposes such talks, since they outrageously ignore the rights of the Palestinian people. "Palestine should be liberated, and all Muslims should pledge all-out support to the intifadah," he stressed. Velayati also called for further activation of the OIC in view of the rapidly changing global equations, and said Iran has for the first time put forward certain proposals in this regard in consultation with the OIC Secretariat.

Meets With Saudi Foreign Minister

LD0612194891 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 6, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Saudi Arabian counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal here today exchanged views on topics of mutual interest, on the sidelines of the OIC ministerial talks which started Thursday. President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been invited by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to visit Saudi Arabia, and the two foreign ministers also discussed time and arrangements of the visit. "It is the wish of the two heads of state to have a meeting," Velayati told reporters after the meeting with al-Faysal.

On Tehran's keenness to host the 7th summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Velayati said this is the "right of the Islamic Republic of Iran", because since the OIC was formed in 1969, neither a summit nor a foreign ministerial session was held in Iran. The previous five venues of the OIC summits were Morocco (twice), Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with the sixth due to start in the Senegalese capital this Monday.

Earlier today, Velayati had separate meetings with his Algerian and Libyan counterparts. He said the main topic of his discussions with the foreign ministers of the three Arab states was the issue of Palestine. "We hope the OIC would adopt a position on the basis of the real expedience of the Palestinian people, and Iran will employ all its efforts in this regard." The issue of Afghanistan and the coming to power of an "Islamic, independent and non-aligned government" in that country was also raised in the talks.

Invitation To Visit Saudi Arabia Extended

LD0712122791 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 7, IRNA—Saudi Arabia Saturday renewed its invitation to Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay an official visit to that country. The invitation was re-extended by the Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

At the end of the meeting, the Saudi foreign minister told IRNA that the two sides discussed visits of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Riyadh and of King Fahd to Tehran. He confirmed reports that King Fahd would not take part in the summit meet, adding that instead Saudi Crown Prince Amir 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud would attend.

He described his talks with Velayati as "very excellent". During the one-hour talk held at Velayati's residence, the two ministers exchanged views on bilateral ties as well as topics on the [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, Velayati told IRNA that there would be no change in President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's scheduled visit to Senegal, adding that he would arrive here Sunday. The president, he added, after taking part in the four-day OIC summit meeting would depart for Sudan.

Velayati Meets Jordanian, Kuwaiti Ministers

LD0712220891 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 7, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Iran and Jordan met here Saturday on the sidelines of the OIC foreign ministerial talks and dicussed issues of mutual interest.

Iran's 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Jordan's Kamel Abu-Jabir, a Christian, expressed satisfaction over the progress of bilateral ties following the resumption of Tehran-Amman ties a few months ago following a ten-year break.

Abu-Jabir told IRNA that he and Velayati discussed the meeting which is expected to take place between Jordan's King Husayn and Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during the four day summit of the 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to open here on Monday.

Velayati said "the Jordanian foreign minister informed me of King Husayn's request for meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani."

According to an Iranian delegate it was announced at the meeting that Jordan will soon despatch an ambassador to the Islamic Republic.

The OIC foreign ministerial talks opened in the Senegalese capital last Thursday.

Velayati, in a separate meeting with his counterpart from the United Arab Emirates Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, discussed mutual ties, the situation in the Persian Gulf and topics on the agenda of the OIC ministerial meeting.

The status quo of the Persian Gulf and security arrangements for the region were also discussed by the two who stressed that outsiders should not interfere in the internal affairs of regional countries.

Velayati also had separate meetings today with the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Tunisia, Guinea and Kuwait today.

The problems of the Muslim world including the issue of Palestine and Iran's ties with those countries were discussed at the meetings.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah invited Velayati to pay an official visit to Kuwait which was accepted by the latter.

Talking to IRNA after the meeting, al-Sabah termed his talks with Velayati as "very helpful and fruitful."

According to an Iranian delegate, both the Iranian and Kuwaiti foreign ministers termed the United States' threats against Libya as "unjust" and backed as "reasonable" Tripoli's demand that an international tribunal should investigate the December 1988 crash of the Pan American airplane over Scotland which was allegedly due to a bomb explosion on board.

Libya has asked the OIC session to insert an article voicing support of member states for Libya against U.S. threats in its final statement.

'Armed Struggle' Against Israel Urged

LD0712095391 Tehran IRNA in English 0759 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 7, IRNA—Iran called for elimination of all paragraphs included in the draft resolution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) supporting the Madrid Middle East peace conference held in October. The call was made by a member of Iranian delegation to the OIC meet here, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri in the Friday meeting of the political committee.

He referred to armed struggle against the Zionist regime as the only solution to Palestine problem adding that Israel understands nothing but the logic of force.

Lashing out at Zionist crimes, Taskhiri criticized the so-called supporters of freedom and justice saying that "the Zionist regime continues its aggression against the Palestinian people, killing them, making them homeless while receiving support from those claiming to advocate freedom and justice."

He called for serious encounter against the Zionist regime's oppressions saying that the occupying regime of al-Quds intended to change the population structure of the occupied Palestine and al-Quds.

He rejected as an illusion the idea that the Zionist regime's recognition would result in it disgrace and thus a major obstacle on the way of peace in the region would be removed.

He stressed that the OIC summit meet should not be utilized for endorsing the U.S.-sponsored Madrid conference.

Iran To Speak for Soviet Muslims

NC0912075391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Unidentified correspondent report from Dakar—recorded]

[Text] Islamic Republic of Iran President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will speak on behalf of a group of Asian Muslim countries during the first session of the Islamic Conference Organization summit. The ICO summit will last four days, during which it will discuss the resolutions proposed by the ICO members' foreign ministers. Heads of the ICO member countries arrived in Senegal yesterday and last night in preparation for the summit.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Syrian, Bahraini Figures

NC0912072091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Unidentified VIRI correspondent report from Dakar—recorded]

[Text] Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Dakar. Khaddam conveyed Hafiz al-Asad's sincerest greetings and briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments on the Palestinian issue, saying that Syria participated in the peace talks on two conditions: first, to preserve the principles of Syria's stability on the Palestinian problem and to prevent the weakening of Palestinian rights; and second, to prevent losing our own territories. Both Syrians and Palestinians hope for an agreement on land, he added.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Khaddam for his comments, stating: Even though we are confident of Syria's resolve, we are worried about the future. We hope that Syria will continue to resist and defend the holy Palestinian goals and continue to be a frontline stronghold and source of hope for the materialization of Palestinian rights.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also met with the Bahraini amir at the latter's residence in Dakar. Our president expressed joy on his first meeting with the Bahraini amir and the expansion of bilateral relations, saying: We intend to expand and strengthen relations with Muslim and neighboring countries and hope that contacts and exchanges between Iran and Bahrain will increase as well.

The Bahraini amir expressed his joy at meeting our president, saying: We want peace and calm in the region so that we can all cooperate in building a better future. We are also very happy with the progress achieved in bilateral relations, he added, noting: We are prepared to expand these relations as much as possible.

The two leaders also said they hope that the ICO summit will be a success and create more solidarity among Muslim countries.

It should be noted that following our president's arrival in Dakar, where he will participate in the sixth ICO summit, his office has received many requests for meetings. The ICO summit will open in a few hours.

Syria's Khaddam Meets 'Arafat, Hashemi-Rafsanjani

JN0912061891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar—At his place of residence in the Senegalese capital last night, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs, and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs. On behalf of the Palestinians, the meeting was attended by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the current situation in the Arab region.

The vice president also met with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani last night. The meeting was attended by Wahib Fadil and Nasir Qaddur. Representing the Iranian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister, and Rowghani-Zanjani, minister of plan and budget.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Khaddam arrived in Dakar last night heading a delegation to attend the sixth Islamic conference scheduled to begin in Dakar at noon today.

OAU Secretary General Comments

AB0912112991 Dakar PANA in English 1033 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, 9 Dec (PANA)—OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim has expressed the hope that an Islamic summit which opened [as received] in Dakar Monday would give the necessary importance to issues of direct concern to Africa and the Third World. In an exclusive interview with PANA in Dakar on Sunday, Salim said these issues included the struggle for justice in South Africa and Palestine and the whole question of the struggle for a better and more just international economic order.

The secretary general, invited by the Senegalese Government and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to the summit, said the body was best placed to put South-South cooperation into practice. Salim said his invitation to the summit was out of recognition by the organisers that many of the issues before the summit would be of direct concern to the African Continent, which contained the majority of OIC member states.

According to Salim, it was through organisations like the OIC that Third World countries would be able to decide whether they were in a position to make an input into the new order or merely be recipients of decisions made by the powers that be.

Jordan's Abu-Jabir on Topics Discussed

JN0912071091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir by unidentified correspondent in Dakar; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, would you tell us about the most important topics reviewed by the Islamic foreign ministers prior to presenting them to the kings and presidents of the participating countries?

[Abu-Jabir] The ministers have reviewed almost all imaginable issues that are of concern to the Islamic nation at this critical time, starting with issues relating to Islamic minorities in non-Islamic countries and ending with the Palestine question. In between, they reviewed the cases of Afghanistan, Cyprus, Jammu and Kashmir, and the Islamic minority in the Philippines, in addition to other issues concerning the Islamic nation in Africa, Asia, and various countries and regions. The ministers reviewed in depth the Palestine question, especially the current peace efforts and the importance of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, including Arab Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Jordanian territories. They also discussed a number of other issues relating to the Palestinian people's rights and the importance of exercising their legitimate political rights on their national Palestinian soil.

[Correspondent] What effect did the peace process have on the foreign ministers' meetings?

[Abu-Jabir] This issue has been discussed in depth, and there was full and comprehensive support for the Madrid peace process, and emphasis on the need for Israel's withdrawal, as I have said, and support for the efforts aimed at realizing a just, comprehensive, and full peace in accordance with the UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Correspondent] What about the economic, social, and cultural issues which have been discussed by the foreign ministers' meetings?

[Abu-Jabir] A large number of these issues were tackled, particularly the indebtedness of member states. A number of ideas were presented with emphasis on the importance of developing or broadening the activities and capital of the Islamic Development Bank. Also discussed were social and cultural issues relating to the

importance of maintaining the identity, civilization, and the rich and wonderful heritage of the Islamic peoples in all regions and states of the Islamic world.

Cyprus Delegation on Turkish Role

NC0912102591 Nicosia KHARAVYI in Greek 9 Dec 91 p 1

[Excerpt] The Cyprus delegation, cooperating with the pro-Cyprus lobby, is putting up a diplomatic fight in Senegal to prevent Turkey from upgrading Turkish Cypriot participation in the Islamic Conference Organization. Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas and Turkish President Turgut Ozal have already arrived in Dakar.

The political committee and special conference subcommittee have already discussed the Cyprus issue because Turkey refused to accept a reference to UN Security Council Resolution 716.

Turkey's draft plan was similar to one approved in Istanbul.

On the pro-Cyprus lobby's insistence, the reference to the UN resolution on Cyprus was modified. The Algerian, Egyptian, and Palestinian delegations headed the pro-Cyprus lobby.

The Cyprus delegation in Dakar consists of Ambassadors Andrestinos Papadhopoulos and Mikhalis Attalidhis, who are making contacts with various Islamic foreign ministers and various delegations' members.

A pre-conference gathering of foreign ministers, due to conclude the day before yesterday, continued but was expected to conclude a day late.

Denktas arrived in Dakar to participate in the ICO summit as an observer. [passage omitted]

Indonesia Refuses To Debate East Timor

LD0812015491 Lisbon RDP Comercial Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Indonesia refuses to discuss East Timor at the Islamic Conference summit in Dakar. The Indonesian foreign minister today refused to debate the Timorese question at the Islamic Conference summit, even outside official circles. A Palestinian delegate telephoned LUSA with this information.

[Indonesian Foreign] Minister Ali Alatas accused the East Timor Liberation Front of the biggest massacres after the Portuguese departed the territory and said that Indonesia does not want to negotiate the East Timor communists' question.

Body Urges Action on 'Satanic Verses'

LD0812001591 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] London, Dec. 7, IRNA—British Muslims are to press with the Islamic heads of state meeting in Dakar this Monday, for an adoptation of an international convention and for a faithful implementation of their declarations adopted at the Islamic foreign ministers' conferences held earlier in Riyadh, Cairo and Istanbul.

A three man delegation of the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs (UKACIA) is flying to the Senegalese capital, Dakar, on Sunday to attend the the sixth summit of the 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The UKACIA has a guest status at the OIC. The invitation to the summit signifies the importance of the issue which affects the dignity and sanctities of the entire Muslim world.

The summits are a high point in the organisation's structure when the heads of state review and define policy issues concerning the Mualim world.

Immediately after the publication of the sacrilegious book *"The Satanic Verses"*, the then OIC secretary-general, Pakistan's Abdul-Halim Pirzada, urged the member states, among others, to take punitive measures against the novel and its publishers.

However, since the book remains in circulation and the publisher, Viking-Penguin, has refused to withdraw and pulp the book, the UKACIA is now urging the Islamic summit conference to apply the sanctions envisaged in the OIC's Cairo and Istanbul resolutions.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Intifadah Talk: U.S. Not Honest Broker

JN0812183891 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1604 GMT 8 Dec 91

["Message" from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the "Palestinian masses" on the occasion of the intifadah entering its fifth year; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

O our struggling masses, the masses of the blessed intifadah. O glorious, proud, free, and lofty people. O heroes of the sacred revolution of stones. O steadfast people in southern Lebanon. O strugglers in all positions of revolution and struggle. O sons of our mujahid people in the homeland and the Diaspora. O masses of our mujahid Arab nation. Here we are my brothers and beloved ones, standing fast with firmness, pride, and confidence, bidding farewell to the fourth year in the life of our blessed intifadah, and entering the fifth year with strength, resolution, and faith, thus registering the longest popular intifadah in contemporary history. [passage omitted] that there will be no peace and stability in this region without achieving the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment

of their free independent state on the national Palestinian soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. Once again we reiterate during this political round of the current negotiations in Washington, that there is no peace but the Palestinian peace, that there will be no stability without the Palestinian will, and that there will be no security but through the security of our Palestinian people and our Arab nation on the basis of our constants and national and pan-Arab interests.

O my brothers, beloved ones, and all my people: We know that all that is taking place in Washington marks the beginning of a fierce political battle between a ruthless enemy and a people who do not submit or give in. It is a battle between right and force, between good and evil, and between a hateful occupation and those who aspire to freedom. We also know that this Zionist enemy has in Washington [word indistinct] and friends. It is the spoiled son of the successive U.S. governments as a result of Zionist influence by way of the Jewish community. We know that the cosponsors of the conference, particularly the Americans, deal with it as a friend, an ally, and even more than this. Therefore, it [the United States] is not an honest broker in this fierce and serious battle. However, we are fully aware of the nature of our people, their will, and faith, and that through their invincible will, this strong faith, and this unshakeable resolution, they are capable of confronting difficulties. We realize that this is one of our battles that we wage in defense of our children, people, rights, holy places, and land. [passage omitted]

O brothers and sisters, we went to Washington [words indistinct] while we are aware of the difficult situation. We know that we did not go for a picnic or a tourist trip. May God help our brothers there while they are waging the most difficult fierce political battles, given the difficult regional and international balances of powers. However, we went there to emphasize our rights, and to try, to try to restore these rights. We also went to reiterate our position toward justice and peace, even if we will not find this justice and that peace. This is because we are the owners of a just cause, whose battles we are waging on all fronts, for the sake of our Palestinian people's freedom. For the sake of our people, all sacrifices, difficulties, hardships, and pains become easy ones. We go to Washington while we are committed to our people's interests, national constants, and the Arab nation's pan- Arab rights. We go there with great hope, a vigorous will, and strong faith. [passage omitted]

O brothers, in this context, we reiterate with all clarity that the Palestine question is one question for one unified people under the leadership of the PLO, and that the major task of the PLO and the Palestinian people is to eliminate injustice and the suffering of all the sons of our Palestinian people, wherever they may exist, inside or outside the homeland. Based on this, we announce clearly that the concentration on stopping our people's suffering inside the occupied homeland does not make us forget, even for a single moment, the suffering of our people in southern Lebanon, Kuwait, and all areas in the Diaspora.

O my brothers and beloved ones, our enemies tried to obliterate our cause, Jerusalem, and holy places, but they did not succeed. They also tried to exclude your organization, the PLO, but they also failed. They also tried to divide our people, but also failed. They wanted to deal separately with Palestine, away from the Arabs, but they failed. We have proven the unity of our people in all their areas, and their commitment to their leadership, frameworks, and institutions.

Proceeding from this comprehensive view, in its local, Arab, and international dimensions, we realize that a new international order is being created and an international historical era is disappearing, including all its meanings, allies, enemies, events, and negative and positive points. However, we will not accept to see this new order established at our expense and over our remains; but we should be part of this order, contributing toward building the civilization of this world and the future of nations and peoples, and not be an insignificant element of it. This requires that Arabs forget their differences, particularly the serious consequences of the Gulf crisis and war on the region and its peoples. They should let bygones be bygones, and look toward the future. [passage omitted]

Brothers, beloved ones: Recent developments and changes have given us important indications; that this Zionist-Israeli enemy does not want peace, avoids it, and does not want to recognize our people's rights and violates these rights. This enemy, moreover, is not concerned with recognizing international legitimacy and international resolutions, and chooses to ignore them. Regrettably, it is receiving support, backing, and aid from its U.S. ally. We do not understand how the United States considers our attempts to emphasize international resolutions at the UN General Assembly—including the resolution of the international peace conference on the Middle East—an obstruction of the political activity of the current settlement process, at the same time it rewards Israel for its crimes and public and exposed rebellion, by insisting on revoking the resolution that equates Zionism with racism! Is this not connivance and bias, and an obstacle to the simplest requirements of arbitration and mediation; and therefore, an obstruction of the ongoing settlement process? Consider also what happened regarding the International Red Crescent and Cross conference, which was due to convene in Hungary, but the U.S. Administration [word indistinct] so that the PLO delegation would not participate in it. Also, denying visas to the members of the Palestinian Advisory Council. In addition to this, the continuation of [words indistinct], building settlements, and bringing in Soviet Jews and others, to swallow up what is left for Palestinian citizens and to continue to judaize Jerusalem and commit crimes against our people and holy shrines, the last incident of which was the attack on the Islamic Court in Jerusalem and the theft of its contents and

religious documents and property. Does all this not mean that double standards are still governing dealings with international legitimacy and international resolutions? [passage omitted containing Koranic verses]

O masses of our struggling people; O struggling masses of our Arab nation; O free, honorable and sincere men of the world: What is taking place now in Washington puts the United States to an important test to prove its credibility and status. For, when the Palestinian delegation [words indistinct], and [word indistinct] fraternal Arab delegations in accordance with our positions as an Arab nation and a Palestinian people, toward peace, days are revealing that Israel does not want peace, but wants surrender. However—and let this be known to everybody—Israel will not find anyone in this nation who accepts its conditions or bows to its blackmail. Hence, the importance of the fact that the two cosponsors should bear their responsibilities, [word indistinct] the United States, and for them to call for using a single standard when dealing with international legitimacy and its resolutions, and not double standards. Here, we proceed depending on God, on our people and their capabilities, and our Arab nation and its faith. We will continue to work, as we did in the past, to unify Arab positions. Therefore, [words indistinct] past generations [words indistinct] with the Arab brothers to assess the past stage, what happened in Madrid, and to prepare for the next stage and what is now happening in Washington, as well as what will happen in Moscow, and agreeing on a unified Arab position on the multilateral conference, its agenda, date, and Palestinian representation in it. [passage omitted]

PLO Statement Hails UAE Support for Intifadah

NC0812164791 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 8 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation on Sunday praised the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for backing the four-year-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

A statement by the PLO mission here paid tribute to UAE President Zayid Bin Sultan al-Nahayan, saying his support had helped the uprising.

"We express gratitude to President Shaykh Zayid for his great role in escalating the intifadah," it said, referring to the Palestinian uprising that erupted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on December 9, 1987.

"The intifadah is entering its fifth year with more strength, pushing the (Israeli) enemy to commit more crimes."

The UAE was among the largest financial backers of the PLO until the organisation was shunned by Gulf states because of its opposition to the war that drove Iraq out of Kuwait.

Fatah's Zaki Hails Intifadah, 'National Unity'

JN0812173491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Dec 91 p 6

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member and secretary of the Higher Committee for the Palestinian Intifadah, has called on all the sons, forces, and key sectors of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to abide by our national unity as one of the most effective weapons for confronting the occupation, and as one of the most important elements of the escalation of the intifadah, which is the only course for the attainment of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, and their right to establish a state on their national soil.

In a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR yesterday, Zaki said that the masses of the intifadah, and all the effective committees in occupied Palestine, are called upon now more than ever to safeguard national unity; a unity which the enemy seeks to undermine by transferring the differences from outside the occupied homeland to inside it.

On the eve of the intifadah entering its fifth year, Zaki said that our kinfolk in occupied Palestine are soldiers in a besieged bastion, and that this siege should make them organize and close ranks within the framework of the intifadah.

Zaki said that the intifadah is the legitimate Palestinian instrument to achieve a just and lasting peace and to confront Israeli attempts to undermine it, as well as Israeli attempts to swallow up the land. He also said that while they escalate their glorious intifadah, the Palestinian people are apprehensive that the United States will not resort to the same criterion it used during the Gulf war, and that Israel will continue to gain time to achieve its settlement objectives and fragment the Arab and Palestinian front.

Zaki said that contacts are under way among the various Palestinian forces to settle the crisis between the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. He said that meetings continue to take place between the Palestinian factions in Tunis, and that meetings will soon be held with the chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, which has its headquarters in Damascus.

Zaki said that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, through their understanding of the nature of the conflict with the enemy and through their attempts to expel the inhabitants and confiscate their land for the establishment of settlements, have formulated plans to attain self-sufficiency, to create job opportunities for tens of thousands of the sons of the Palestinian people, who have returned to occupied Palestine after losing their sources of income in the Gulf, particularly in Kuwait.

Zaki said that the Palestinian command, in cooperation with various sectors in the occupied territories, is working to implement a program of struggle to make the fifth year of the intifadah a unique one in the history of the Palestinian struggle, which seeks to attain a just and comprehensive peace.

U.S., Soviets Urged To Pressure Israel on Talks

LD0712183691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The PLO has urged the United States and the USSR, the co-sponsors of the peace conference, through its official spokesman, to put pressure on Israel to get it to end its attempts to scuttle the peace process. The spokesman added: the organization [the PLO] is still expecting the two co-sponsors of the conference to take a position to convince the Arabs to continue their participation in the peace process after Israel refused to attend on 4 December while it continued its maneuvering.

The PLO spokesman went on to say: It must be understood that no meeting will take place with the Israeli delegation outside the [framework of the] peace conference and outside the patronage of the two co-sponsoring states. We will not give in to pressures and we reject blackmail.

Shamir Trying To 'Marginalize' U.S. Role in Talks

LD0612203291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: Since the Israeli delegation did not come yesterday to the bilateral negotiations in Washington, and the delegation's seats remained empty, a big question keeps running in the heads of Arab and foreign political observers, and bewilders people in the different Arab capitals. Some observers considered the nonattendance of the Israeli delegation in Washington on the agreed-upon date of 4 December to be a maneuver aimed at foiling the conference. Others considered it a challenge to the Bush administration, while others still considered it an attempt to test the degree of U.S. determination and resolve to force Israel to adhere to and accept a peace that it does not want, in particular if this peace is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

In fact, Shamir's government wants direct negotiations with the Arabs and the Palestinians in isolation, without any interference from whichever side, irrespective of who it might be. It wants direct and bilateral negotiations between Israeli parties, relying on Israeli military superiority, and between Arab parties, including a Palestinian side, which do not possess strong cards that could consolidate their positions in the negotiations. However, because the resolutions of international legitimacy, including Resolutions 242, 338, and 181, represent the strongest cards the Arabs and the Palestinians have, Shamir's government wants to strike them from their hands. It has striven for this end since early on by making unyielding efforts to transcend the suggestion to convene the international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and replace it with the convening of the present peace conference. We confess that Israel has succeeded to a great and astonishing degree in marginalizing the UN role in the peace process, bearing in mind that the U.S.-Soviet invitation is based on international legitimacy. Israel has also succeeded in cutting to size the role of the European group, and the role of the Soviet Union in the peace process, and it, namely Israel, is currently continuing its efforts and attempts to reduce and marginalize the U.S. role, in particular because the Bush administration did not stop emphasizing international legitimacy resolutions and the principle of land for peace, and since the guarantees which it had presented to Shamir's government were, from the Likud point of view, insufficient to assure Israel.

During the first days and weeks of President Bush's initiative, Israel announced its protest and tried to dissuade the U.S. Administration from emphasizing international legitimacy resolutions and the land for peace principle. But James Baker, U.S. Secretary of State, managed to contain the Israeli protest, and convinced Shamir that America would remain committed to the friendship and cooperation ties with Israel, a matter which made Shamir's government agree to Bush's initiative. But the steps which followed that made Shamir fear that America could be neutral in the peace process. The U.S. raising of the issue of the loan guarantees to Israel, amounting to $10 billion to build settlements in the occupied Arab territories, aroused noticeable doubts in Israel about the American position.

Today, Shamir and his government have come to believe that the U.S. administration is completely serious about achieving peace, and that it will not accept failure for President Bush's initiative. However, to make the initiative successful, and for the Arabs to agree to continue responding to it, it [U.S. Administration] must give sufficient importance to international legitimacy resolutions.

There is no quarter in the world that can now force Israel to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy and withdraw from occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon, other than the United States. The U.S. Administration is the only one capable of forcing Shamir's government, or namely Israel's government, to obey the international community's desire in achieving peace based on international legitimacy. Shamir and his supporters in the government realize this fact; they know it well. Therefore, Shamir strives to undermine and marginalize the U.S. role in the peace process, particularly since he knows that the Arab parties, including the

Palestinian side, came to Madrid, and then to Washington, relying on the U.S. role, and relying on what guarantees and assurances the Bush's administration had presented to them.

Shamir had asked Baker to reduce, or entirely terminate, U.S. interference in the negotiations, and to be satisfied with the role of neutral mediator, but Bush's Administration, however, which took it on itself to achieve the peace and stability needed for its interests in the region, cannot comply with Shamir's desire which involves elements for aborting the peace process. Shamir's insistence on postponing the negotiations is meant to tell the American administration and the whole world that the two sides of the negotiations, Israel and the Arabs, are those who decide the place and time of the negotiations, and nobody else, not even America. Thus, Shamir entered into a tug-of-war game with Bush for the second time. The following days, or hours, will reveal who will succeed in pulling the other to his position and accept his stance.

Should Shamir succeed, the U.S. role in the peace process will lose much of its luster, importance, influence, and effectiveness. If Bush succeeds, any new Israeli maneuver after that will not find anyone who would pay any attention to it, and would meet with failure, or Israel would refuse to continue in the peace process and bear the responsibility of its failure in front of the whole world.

Commentary: Arab Coordination at Talks 'Vital'

LD0612222291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Station Commentary]

[Text] It is not enough for the United States to declare through its State Department spokesman its disappointment at the Israeli side's failure to attend the negotiations on the fixed date. Such a declaration does not rise to the minimum standard of U.S. concern for the fateful importance of these negotiations. This declaration does not show even the minimum level of confrontation to the extremely stubborn [Israeli] stance which tries, between one step and another, to repeat its rigorous measures for blowing up the peace process.

Since Israel did not attend the negotiations on the fixed date, then the two sponsors of the peace conference, the United States and the USSR, should have fixed a new date for the second round of talks and notified all the parties concerned of it so that movement toward the holding of the second round would begin in the light of this.

It is illogical, naturally, for the Government of Israel to impose its conditions and measures in this regard. The issue is not one of the advancement or delay of few days, despite the basic importance of the time factor and the need for speeding up the steps along the road to peace. It is one of the legitimacy on which the peace conference is founded and of the responsibility of the sponsors of the conference to insure its success and bring pressure on the Israeli Government by all means and methods this legitimacy involves.

Observers have noted in this regard the failure of the American information media to play their role of constantly following the peace conference. Instead of casting light on the stubborn Israeli stance and the obstacles laid by the government of Yitzhaq Shamir in the way of peace, these media preoccupied themselves with purely American issues as though this most important political event that is taking place on the American soil was of no concern to them. We are not so naive as to believe that this American information lapse was an ordinary matter. Indeed, we see in it a link with the administration of the U.S. President, George Bush, as it hides itself behind a dense screen these days as though what is happening is of no concern to it too.

Any slackening in the attitude of the cosponsors of the conference reflects itself in the form of greater Israeli obduracy and more obstacles and difficulties which the government of Shamir fabricates to freeze the peace process. As much as it is ultimately the responsibility of the United States, it is also the responsibility of all the Arab countries to realize that the matter is serious and the stage is decisive, and that coordinated unified support among all the Arab countries irrespective of the well-known Arab-Arab differences, is vital to protect the strength of the Arab position at the talks.

Arab Delegates at U.S. Talks Seen As 'Traitors'

JN0612165791 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1604 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] What has been happening since 4 December is a boring, ironic play which disregards people's minds—the minds of Arabs and others alike.

The insult to the so-called Arab delegations cannot be circumvented by expressions of denunciation or anger. This is because those Arabs were the ones who ran to Washington to jump on the American-Zionist lap [words indistinct] to search for lost reassurance that cannot exist, except when people have the final say on their own affairs, free and happy, and when their leadership arises from them to serve them.

Yitzhaq Shamir's insult to those Arabs is not only directed at them; it is also an insult to the children of the stones, the PLO, and every free, honest Arab throughout the Arab homeland.

The insult is not caused by Yitzhaq Shamir. Is Shamir's disregard for international norms, his mockery of Bush, and his trickery of the Arab oil agents not an insult to pan-Arab dignity caused by those scoundrels who begged Bush and Shamir to search for the alleged peace in a bid to sell out Palestine and the Arab nation, conspire

against the intifadah, and drag this homeland into the U.S.-Zionist slaughterhouse?

May the vile traitors be cursed. They will meet their inevitable defeat, sooner or later. Victory for the dignity that is preserved by national and pan-Arab struggle, under the leadership of the heroes of the holy stones and the blessing of a steadfast nation, that works miracles and stands tall in the Iraq of hero Saddam Husayn.

U.S. Bid To Repeal UN Zionism Resolution Viewed

JN0712213691 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: The U.S. State Department spokeswoman says Washington worked seriously and silently to repeal the UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. The word "silently" draws one's attention. If what Washington did was silent, what would its loud voice and shouts be like? The first thing that refutes the spokeswoman's statement is the statement itself. She says: We believe that all UN member states should vote for repealing this resolution. She is referring to the resolution that equates Zionism with racism. Does Washington "believe", or does it really order, press, and stress?

U.S. President George Bush was the first to yell and pose threats when he said that the United Nations should abolish Resolution 3379 without conditions or slackening, and that the U.S. request should be met by 17 December at the latest.

The United States, thus, is not acting seriously and silently, as the spokeswoman claims. Rather, it is acting aggressively and with a loud voice, because what is in question is not the correction of a mistake or merely the cancellation of an international resolution, but the entrenchment of the U.S. method of dealing with world issues. This method is one-sided; it cannot be debated—let alone opposed or rejected.

While trying to impose its ways and force others to obey it, the United States finds itself [passage indistinct] convening this major meeting with a number of the Arab sides under the slogan of peace, in Madrid and Washington, where the Americans [word indistinct] to take positions as never before.

Thus, the United States will find itself obliged to consider the progression of events and wait for encouraging developments, if there will be any. It acknowledges that Tel Aviv is not making any facilities—or what President Husni Mubarak terms as incentives and confidence-building measures. Nevertheless, the United States never cares for any Arab side that may complain, nor does it take into consideration the world nations that adopted the resolution in 1975 after years of evidence-collecting. Now the United States is giving orders, insisting that Zionism be acquitted by the parties that issued the resolution, including the Arabs, the victims of Zionist racism.

There remains one last question. Will the United States ask the United Nations and the Arabs for more than the abolishment of the UN resolution? Will it repeat what it did to Japan, when it attacked the Japanese with an atomic bomb, and then demanded that they apologize? This is highly likely, although a UN retreat on a resolution whose motives still exist would be more than an apology; indeed, more than an insult.

PNC Speaker Urges East, West Bank 'Cohesion'

JN0812134291 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0952 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Amman, 8 Dec (PETRA)—His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al- Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stressed that a confederation between Palestine and Jordan will materialize once its elements are available.

This came in the popular rally that was organized by the popular committee for the support of the intifadah yesterday at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman marking the beginning of the fifth year of the intifadah. Representatives of the various popular bodies took part in this rally.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the Palestinian people will accept no homeland other than Palestine, and no capital for their state other than holy Jerusalem.

He also stressed the national cohesion among the sons of the East and West banks of the river. He said: There is no difference between the east and west of the river. We destroy the shackles of Zionist-imperialist fear. We prove that the strength of the stone and the aroma of the olive branch embody the purity of the souls of the 1,350 martyrs, and 150 detainees who, behind bars, registered stories of great struggle and schools of live jihad. They also embody the suffering of 120,000 injured, who watered the soil with their sacrifices and heroism.

The PNC speaker saluted our steadfast sons in the Arab occupied territories who remained patient before the storming of homes, breaking of bones, and violations of sanctities. [passage omitted]

Algeria

2 Arrested in Fundamentalist Border Attack

LD0712144791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Excerpt] There have been recent developments in the attack on the border guard barracks at Guemar. The command of the national gendarmerie announced that units of the national army charged with restoring peace and stability in El Oued wilaya [governorate] yesterday arrested two people involved in the attack against the border post. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill Nine

LD0712193291 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Excerpt] This afternoon, 10 people from the group which attacked the Guemar border post and who are now on the run clashed with [security] units ordered to track them down. The clash occurred 45 km northeast of the town of El Oued.

The first death toll available to us reports that nine of the fugitives were killed and one was wounded. The units recovered 11 Kalashnikov machine guns. Moreover, one person was killed and two others were injured in the ranks of the units in charge of the search operation. The search operation is continuing in the area of Medrina, where two people belonging to the aforementioned gang were caught.

As a result of this operation, the units managed to recover one semiautomatic rifle and a training rifle which had been stolen from the [gendarmerie] post. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Implicates FIS

LD0612213491 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1922 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Khaled Nezzar by unidentifed correspondent at Ouargla on 5 December—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] How far has the development of this matter [clashes with fundamentalists in the Guemar area near El Oued] gone?

[Nezzar] What we can say about this matter is from information thus far obtained, pending the final conclusion of the matter. We must do all we can to destroy this group to the last man. First of all, we must gather all the weapons they have seized and leave no weapons in unauthorized hands. This is the first thing we must do. Second, naturally, we must destroy this group and send a lesson for the future to some individuals and some people.

As I have said, perhaps there was no direct connection with the party, the Islamic [Salvation] Front [FIS]. But we say that there was a direct connection, and this is definite. All the persons we have arrested to prevent this were members of the party or had a connection with or were supporters of the party. They include someone who used to be a clerk; his name is Baghi. His full name is Ahmed Baghi Abdelhamid; he used to work at an office at the municipality. There is the mayor of Guemar municipality, who disappeared at the beginning of the siege. He had disappeared for sometime beforehand and only reemerged on the day that the attack was carried out, on Thursday. The attack was carried out against the barracks during the day and during the night.

If we want to assess this operation, we can say that the group which carried out the ugly attack on the barracks included 34 persons. And there are other people who took part in it from far or near, directly or indirectly, in this attack. Thirty-four was the number of people who carried out the attack, and there are 87 persons who are today in the hands of the gendarmerie. They are being questioned. Right now, we have four people [word indistinct] from the 34 who carried out the operation, three of whom we killed. Two died in the morning [unspecified] and one the day before yesterday. Only about 27 or 26 people remain from this group. Obviously, the operation continues, and we must eliminate this group, which is dispersed. According to information I received today, the group is dispersed in groups of two or four. All the officials have received orders to continue the operation to eliminate this group for good, and this might take a few days. In any case, I can also say that the existing unit which intervened on the first day carried out a magnificent action and achieved considerable results. I thank them very much and call on them to continue their efforts to eliminate this group once and for all.

[Correspondent] Could you say something to reassure the public?

[Nezzar] What we can say to the public, because we are at the start of the election campaign, is to reassure the entire public that we are doing all we can to establish stability and security for the people so that we all address the elections in an atmosphere of complete security. We ask all people to participate in the elections in peace and happiness. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Some people have been talking about the involvement of some foreign hands in the matter.

[Nezzar] Up to today there have been only Algerian hands involved. In fact, there were no foreign hands at all. Naturally, if those people, the majority of whom belonged to the party, the FIS, had a connection with abroad, that is another matter. But all the people involved in the operation are Algerians. The culprits are all Algerians. Once more, we say that they have an indirect connection with this. God willing, we will continue the operation and continue our investigation, which might lead us to a direct link. Today, however, we can only say that there is an indirect link.

[Correspondent] Alright; this is as far as the people [involved] are concerned. What about the weapons? Have you been able to recover them?

[Nezzar] If we are talking about the annihilation of this group, of course we will have to recover all the weaponry as we must not leave it in the hands of irresponsible people. We can say today that we have recovered more than half of the weapons. However, 24 or 25 pieces of weaponry are still in the hand of those people. We can say today that we have recovered 17 AK rifles and four submachine guns. Some 4 rifles and 20 submachine guns are still to be recovered. And we must recover these weapons as soon as possible, God willing. Thank you.

Nezzar Pledges 'Annihilation' of FIS

NC0812172591 Paris AFP in English 1644 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Algiers, Dec 8 (AFP)—A merciless manhunt was under way in the Algeria-Tunisia border region Sunday for members of an armed extremist rebel group responsible for a murderous attack on a border post last weekend.

The Algerian defence minister, Major General Khaled Nezzar, on Friday vowed to "wipe out" the so-called Tayeb el-Afghani group, which the authorities have linked to the opposition Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

On Saturday the [word indistinct] forces about 45 kilometres (30 miles) from El Oued in eastern Algeria the same day.

One person was killed and two wounded on the Army side.

The gendarmerie, backed by special Army units, was Sunday hunting down some 20 remaining members of the Tayeb el-Afghani group, who attacked the Guemar border post November 29.

The attackers, who got away with a large number of weapons, left three soldiers dead with their throats cut and three other soldiers wounded. The attackers were said to have been shouting "God is great" at the time.

The defence minister said the manhunt would continue "without respite until the definitive annihilation" of the group.

In connection with the same events, 87 people have been arrested, according to official sources.

These include the mayor of Guemar, who went underground in June when several national leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front were arrested.

Most of the arrests are of activists or sympathisers of the front or an affiliated trade union, but front leader Abdelkader Hachani has denied any front responsibility for the Guemar attack.

The Tayeb el-Afghani group is so called after its reported leader, a former Islamic fighter in Afghanistan. According to unconfirmed reports, he was among the nine members of the group killed Saturday.

According to Nezzar, 34 members of the commando attacked the border post. Official sources said they lost three of their number in that first clash.

Several wounded members of the group are in the hands of the gendarmerie.

FIS Leader Responds to Charges

LD0712151391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, let us now return to the political and party arena. We have just received a recording of Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, the official from the Islamic Salvation Front provisional national bureau, in which he responds to the statement made yesterday by Brigadier General Khaled Nezzar, who, as you know, indicated that there is an indirect connection between the incidents in El Oued and the FIS. Let us now listen to Mr. Abdelkader Hachani's statement:

[Begin Hachani recording] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon God's prophet. We were in fact surprised to hear the statement made yesterday by the defense minister on national television in which he emphasized that the incidents which had occurred in El Oued were indirectly linked to the FIS. We consider this statement a carbon copy repetition of what happened prior to the incidents of last June, when the Didier affair, for example, and others were fabricated.

Today the Algerian people understand that the statements were meant to prepare public opinion in order to cover up the crimes that were committed. The thing that draws one's attention here is the timely coincidence of this fabricated tension and these false and serious charges with the passing of laws that mortgage the country's resources and suppress the people's liberty. There is even more of a coincidence with Algeria's receiving a grant from parties which are renowned for their historical animosity toward Islam.

I would like to point out that Algier's penal code, despite the degree of its unfairness, is clear in stating that responsibilities are individual rather than collective. We therefore wonder about the real aims hidden behind this recent statement by the defense minister.

In reality, we believe that when the regime realized that the people's choice was turning toward an option that would remove it from power, and because the regime is not prepared to take turns in this regard, it is now looking for pretexts and will continue to do so in order to undermine any serious opposition and to create an atmosphere of tension that will allow it to remain in power. Only God knows. [end recording]

Statement Rejects Accusations

LD0812112191 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Algiers, 8 Dec (APS)—The FIS considers the recent statement by the defense minister concerning the Guemar events to be a "false and dangerous accusation against it," and it terms it a "another episode in the long series of the regime's conspiracies."

It denounces "in a statement signed by Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the national provisional executive council, and published yesterday—Saturday—evening, the propaganda and electoral aims behind this statement, which, the statement says, "seek to harm the reputation of the FIS and to prepare public opinion to abort the FIS' Islamic project."

The statement "emphasizes the FIS' commitment to the peaceful path in achieving an Islamic solution and edifying the Islamic state through the free choice of the Muslim Algerian people within the framework of legality and openness. The FIS also reserves the right to bring to trial all those who take advantage of the institutions of the state in order to harm their reputation."

It should be recalled that Defense Minister General Khaled Nezzar stated on Friday night to national television that the FIS "had an indirect link" with the Guemar events.

Police, Riot Squads Deploy in Algiers 6 Dec

LD0612154591 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] In Algeria, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has given up the idea of organizing demonstrations today. As you know, all demonstrations have been banned in Algeria throughout the election campaign. The FIS has given up the idea of marches in favor of meetings. This did not, however, prevent the gendarmerie and riot squads from deploying in Algiers this morning. So far we have not been informed of any incidents.

40,000 Attend FIS Rally

LD0612231691 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] In Algeria, the Islamic Salvation Front has turned the demonstration it planned for today into a meeting, and 40,000 people in Algiers answered the call. The authorities in fact deployed a spectacular security force, reports Malek Benhacine:

This afternoon's meeting took place without any incidents in the capital. The warning published yesterday by the Interior Ministry and the new laws adopted by the National Assembly enabling the civil authorities to call in the Army had the expected effect. All of a sudden, what promised to be a repeat of the June events turned into a classic election rally which enabled the FIS to maintain the suspense concerning its participation in the consultation [election] while continuing to apply a certain amount of pressure on the regime.

The FIS, which reiterated its request for the release of its political leadership, continues to set this as a condition but not a precondition. The nuance is a considerable one, but it is not always understood by its rank and file or by public opinion, at whose hand [imprisoned FIS leader] Abassi Madani's party suffered a serious setback today on the second day of an election campaign for which [Presidency Secretary General] General Larbi Belkheir is intent on ensuring an indispensable climate of serenity, calm, and sense of responsibility.

FIS Leader Discusses Elections

LD0612230391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] This afternoon leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front held several rallies throughout the national homeland after the cancelation of the marches originally scheduled to take place today following the Friday prayers. The largest of these rallies was presided over by Abdelkader Hachani, chief of the FIS provisional executive bureau, at Martyrs Square in Algiers, at which he said that the FIS has pledged to establish the Islamic state through elections. He emphasized that the FIS will triumph.

It is clear from this statement that the FIS is ready to contest the elections, though the final decision on this rests with the FIS Consultative Council [madjlis echoura], which has not yet made a final decision in this regard.

Tunisian Fundamentalist Denied U.S., French Visas

PM0612112291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Nov 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Washington Refuses To Grant Ghannouchi Entry Visa; Tunisia Attacks al-Turabi"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed diplomatic sources that the United States recently refused to grant Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the banned Tunisian al-Nahdah Movement, an entry visa to attend a conference organized by an Islamic society in the United States.

Many observers in Tunisia see the U.S. refusal as reflecting a hardening of the U.S. attitude toward the al-Nahdah Movement. Sources close to the al-Nahdah Movement previously said that the U.S. Administration was sympathetic to the Tunisian fundamentalists and had good links with their leaders.

The same sources say that Ghannouchi now faces a problem because numerous countries are refusing to grant him an entry visa. France, where he lived before, will not allow him to return. According to available information, Rached Ghannouchi now lives in Sudan.

The Sudanese Government had given him a diplomatic passport under a false name. When Tunisia protested, Khartoum promised to withdraw the diplomatic passport, which Ghannouchi is currently using for his travels.

The Tunisian Government paper LA PRESSE yesterday launched a fierce attack on the Sudanese Government, accusing it of "turning Sudan into a real base for fundamentalist terrorism." The paper emphasized that there were currently "more than 30 training camps for such terrorism."

Citing unnamed sources, the paper said that "there are training camps for international terrorism in Khartoum and its suburbs and similar camps in Cyprus and in Peshawar, Pakistan."

The paper also said that "the aim of National Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi, who is the country's real master, is to provide active assistance to the various fundamentalist movements in other Arab and Islamic states."

Tunisia decided on 15 October to recall its ambassador from Sudan. Tunisian media spoke about Sudanese aid for the Tunisian fundamentalists accused of plotting to seize power by force.

Ghannouchi Denies Deportation

PM0612152991 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Dec 91 pp 1, 4

[Mustafa Sawwaq report: "Ghannouchi and Colleagues Deported From Algeria; Sudanese Government Withdrew His Passport"]

[Excerpt] Algiers, from Mustafa Sawwaq; London, AL-HAYAH—In a communication with AL-HAYAH, political sources in Algiers have confirmed that Cheikh Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the banned Tunisian Al-Nahdah Movement, has been deported from Algeria with a number of his colleagues.

Contacted from London yesterday, the sources said that Ghannouchi, who is now in the British capital, has tried, through mediation with the Algerian authorities by a well-known Algerian motion picture personality, to persuade the Algerian authorities to rescind their decision, which cannot be viewed in isolation from the recent rapprochement between Tunisia and Algeria and the incidents caused by extremists who attacked an Algerian border guard post near the Tunisian border.

However, a statement issued by Ghannouchi's office in Paris yesterday said that he and a number of his leadership colleagues were not deported by Algeria, that he "realizes that Algeria had come under strong pressure regarding his stay there but did not respond to these pressures, that when he was in Algeria he was treated hospitably, and that he left of his own free will to attend some conferences abroad."

The statement denied allegations that Washington had refused to grant Ghannouchi a U.S. entry visa "as he never made such a request anyway."

AL-HAYAH has learned that the Sudanese Government, which had given Ghannouchi a Sudanese passport, has decided to withdraw and cancel that passport.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Salvation Front yesterday announced the cancelation of the demonstrations it had called for on Friday. [passage omitted]

Departed Algeria 'Of His Own Free Will'

NC0812122491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Algiers, 8 Dec (MENA)—Cheikh Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian Islamic al-Nahdah movement, has denied recent reports that he was expelled from Algeria. He pointed out that he left in dignity and honor.

In a statement in today's edition of the Algerian newspaper AL-KHABAR, Ghannouchi said that he left Algeria of his own free will in dignity and honor, and that his family is still there.

Egypt

Musa on Peace Talks, Nuclear Weapons, Libya

NC0612151991 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 6 Dec 91 p 12, 13

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by correspondent Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo on 4 December]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] What, in your view, are the possibilities for moving the peace talks from Washington to the Middle East, especially if Israel takes a step such as freezing the settlement as a gesture of goodwill?

[Musa] If Israel does in fact start to freeze the settlement then this would be an important and positive step that could lead to good results from the negotiations. If Israel makes such a gesture, it would prove its sincere peace intentions. This would be followed by a tangible progress in the peace process. Peace and settlement cannot be lumped together because settlement is illegal and illegitimate and basically conflicts with peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you have confidence in the U.S. ability as a neutral and honest broker? To what extent could this be in line with Arab interests?

[Musa] Yes. We have confidence in the U.S. ability to be a neutral and honest broker. The U.S. Administration's role in starting the peace process, preparing for it, and calling for its convocation is proof of this. The U.S. role has been very positive and should be supported by all the parties participating in the peace process.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the proposals contained in the invitation sent recently by the U.S. Administration to the parties to hold the bilateral talks? These proposals focus on the so-called limited regional compromise on the Golan, call on the Palestinians to accept autonomy for a temporary period, and put aside sensitive and controversial issues such as who would be in control of water resources and lands?

[Musa] This is not so. It was only an invitation to the parties to resume and continue the negotiations. As far as I know, the invitations did not specify or exclude any issues.

[Al-Sa'id] But it has been said that the invitation mentioned a limited regional compromise on the Golan?

[Musa] No issue has been specified or excluded. This is mere talk.

[Al-Sa'id] In your view, why is there this exaggerated interest in the multiparty talks which it is hoped would be held at the end of this month?

[Musa] The importance is given to the peace process as a whole. There was extreme importance in holding the Madrid conference. There is extreme importance now in the bilateral talks that start today. This importance applies to all elements of the agreement or the peace process in all its stages.

[Al-Said] What is the significance of inviting Yemen to take part in the peace talks?

[Musa] Why not? It is exactly the same as the other Arab countries that have been invited.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your view of Israel's constant attempts to talk about the region's countries' preoccupation with armament and the danger surrounding Israel as a result of the Arab countries' purchase of nuclear reactors, and the concern Israel recently raised regarding Syria's purchase of a nuclear reactor from the PRC?

[Musa] This talk has often been repeated. The real danger lies in the existence of nuclear arms. There is an inevitable need to control armament and remove weapons of mass destruction, foremost of which are nuclear arms. Israel must take part in this process so there will be no exception to the rule. Israel is like any other country of the region and, consequently, what applies to the Arab countries must apply to it.

[Al-Sa'id] Shamir says that Bush and Baker told him during his latest visit to Washington that the Arabs will wake up to a difficult reality if they think the United States will meet their demands for Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory.

[Musa] The land-for-peace principle is a main one and not a dream. Talks between the two parties are held on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Anyone who believes that peace can be established without Israeli withdrawal is dreaming.

[Al-Sa'id] What about relations between you and Jordan?

[Musa] We coordinate with them concerning the peace process.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your current position on U.S. and British threats against Libya?

[Musa] We are exerting great efforts and holding intensive contacts to contain the crisis from the premise of our absolute disapproval of any terrorist acts. Such acts can never be allowed. At the same time, there are well known and published accusations, and legal measures must be taken in this respect.

[Al-Sa'id] You recently met with the Sudanese president's envoy. What is your assessment of relations between Egypt and Sudan at present?

[Musa] We discussed certain issues that concern Egypt and Sudan and other complicated and pending matters.

[Al-Sa'id] Going back to the bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel, do you believe that the talks can result in anything?

[Musa] There are possibilities that must be discussed and used and we have great hopes that all the countries, particularly Israel, will deal with these possibilities in a positive and serious way.

[Al-Sa'id] What do you specifically hope from the talks?

[Musa] To succeed and result in a real settlement.

Al-Baz Expects No Israeli Concessions

NC0812190391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that Israel will not make any concessions at the Arab-Israeli talks scheduled to be held in Washington on 10 December.

Dr. al-Baz said that Israel is determined to discuss procedural topics during the bilateral talks, contrary to media reports yesterday and today that Israel has changed its stand and will discuss vital issues such as withdrawal from the occupied territories.

In statements to MENA, Dr. al-Baz said it is likely to discuss vital issues during the third stage of multilateral talks—issues that were supposed to be discussed during the second stage of the talks. It is also possible that the multilateral talks will be postponed, Dr. al-Baz added.

In his statement, Dr. al-Baz said it is possible to bring pressure to bear on Israel during the multilateral talks, which will be attended by representatives of 30 states and be in the form of a conference. He pointed out that the issues that will be dealt with during the multilateral

talks will constitute pressure on the Israeli Government from within Israel itself because these issues are vital for the Israeli people.

'Arafat Adviser Sha'th Criticizes U.S. 'Retreat'

NC0712222291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2123 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo tonight at the end of a two-day visit to Tunisia.

In an arrival statement he said he had discussed with president 'Arafat the latest developments in the Washington peace negotiations, especially after the Israeli delegation's failure to go there, the stand the Palestinian delegation should adopt toward this, and preparation for the third phase of the multilateral negotiations, which were announced to be held in Moscow on 28 and 29 January.

He noted that the U.S. Administration has retracted its stand in confronting Israeli intransigence by protecting the Israeli delegation from facing any media confrontation such as by forbidding pictures to be taken of the delegation's empty seats, by denying visas to the Palestinian delegation members to enter the United States, and by again raising the issue of repealing the UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Dr. Sha'th noted that this retreat in the U.S. stand comes as a response to the Israeli position calling for no PLO delegation beside the Palestinian negotiators.

India Mediating Egyptian, Iraqi Interests

NC0712102191 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Dec 91 p 9

[Text] The Egyptian and Iraqi Governments are holding contacts through the Indian Government, which is handling the two countries' interests in Cairo and Baghdad, to agree to sending Egyptian Foreign Ministry employees to the Indian Embassy in Baghdad to handle Egyptians' interests there. AL-SHA'B has learned that the Iraqi Government has approved the Egyptian request, in turn asking it to approve the sending of two of its employees to handle Iraqi interests in Cairo.

Libya

Leaders, Officials Comment on Lockerbie Affair

Al-Qadhdhafi Welcomes 'Neutral' Inquiry

NC0612221591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has said that he welcomes any neutral international investigation committee in Libya and is certain of Libya's innocence in connection with the blowing up of the American and French planes. He said Libya is prepared to accept the findings of any such committee.

Al-Qadhdhafi added that enemies have succeeded in distorting Libya's image at the international level, and that changing this image will take considerable effort. He said: True, our image is distorted, but we are not terrorists originally. However, it will take an enormous effort to get rid of what has been pinned on us deliberately.

In the second and last part of his interview with AL-AHRAM, to be published tomorrow, Col. al-Qadhdhafi praised the Bush administration, describing Bush as an experienced politician who takes no action until he has studied it meticulously.

He said the peace march, if it succeeds, will give him the opportunity to meet with President Bush. He added that despite the difference of opinion between himself and the U.S. secretary of state, he admits that he has a sober and rational personality.

Reviewing the causes of tension between America and his country, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said America was unfair to Libya when it unjustly and wrongly blamed it for the attack against a nightclub in Berlin and when it mounted an attack on the Gulf of Sidra, claiming the lives of many of innocent people. When the American plane was destroyed in 1988, they thought Libya had destroyed it to take revenge for the injustice done to it, he said.

He affirmed that Libya has no desire to antagonize a major state like the United States. Equally, he said, America should not take pride in antagonizing a small state like Libya.

He said America is not exclusively for the Americans alone, instead it is for all the peoples of the world and must dedicate its powers to the interest of mankind.

Touching on peace efforts and the Libyan stand on them, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said: I do not understand why the entire world should turn against us just because we have our own views on the peace process while Ariel Sharon walks tall in America and is being venerated and allowed to present his ideas against peace, negotiations, and Madrid.

He affirmed that Libya does not oppose the truth and that all it advises is that the PLO must have a united stand and be the legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Refuting the evidence brought forward by America and England—about a bag shipped from Malta carrying the "detonator" that blew up the plane—Al-Qadhdhafi said that if the operation was developed in Malta, it would be unreasonable for the engineer of the operation to leave evidence from the place in which the operation was developed. He referred to assertions from Malta that no unaccompanied luggage had boarded the plane from

there. He said Malta has absolutely ruled out the occurrence of an explosion. [sentence as received] If there is any evidence, it should be presented to a neutral UN committee, he said.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi commended the efforts made, and being made by President Husni Mubarak. He said: We fully agree that President Mubarak is undertaking a great pan-Arab task and we have an understanding in all fields.

The leader of the Libyan revolution emphasized that any military action will not provide a final solution, that it will ruin the peace march and the negotiations held in Madrid and Washington, and that it will give extremists in the Arab homeland the chance to act under the excuse of jihad to settle accounts with regimes to defend Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed that relations with Egypt are not marred by any problem. He said Libya is fully open to the Egyptians in the same way Egypt is open to the Libyans.

Al-Qadhdhafi continued: We learned from past experience that unity does not come about through words and propaganda, but rather through serving the common interests of the people. He affirmed that the two countries have no political differences.

Touching on the issue of financing projects, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said the threat to impose an economic embargo on Libya has (?annoyed) the Libyans to some extent. If it were not for that, we would have signed the contract for the railway line between Egypt and Libya, he said.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that imposing economic sanctions against Libya will not affect three million Libyans alone, but also 1.5 million Egyptians in Libya, as well as millions of Arabs in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Sudan. He underlined that the United Nations does not approve of such sanctions.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed that Libya's support for liberation movements does not mean that it supports terrorist movements. He said Libya used to support the IRA and that it severed all relations with it when its terrorist nature was uncovered. This has been published by the British press but because there are no longer any bad intentions, why does London show hostility these days, he asked.

As for the "Moro" Islamic movement in Phlippines, the Libyan colonel said it is recognized by Muslim states and the Islamic Conference Organization. He pointed out that Libya halted arms shipments to that movement when Phlippines President Corazon Aquino promised to implement the Tripoli agreement on giving Muslims autonomy rule.

Apart from that, and contrary to what is being disseminated, there are no movements or training camps in Libya, Al-Qadhdhafi asserted. He said his country does not open its doors to any terrorist activity. He admitted that in effect, terrorism means killing civilians and transferring the battle outside its real field. Even inside Palestine, fighting the Israeli Army is legitimate, while killing Israeli students or blowing up a building or a hotel is true terrorism, he said.

In the interview, al-Qadhdhafi stated that Libya is about to present a draft to the United Nations on fighting terrorism and resolving the problems that might lead to it; destroying all the weapons of terrorism—chemical, biological, and nuclear alike—and banning their manufacture; getting rid of continental ballistic weapons; cleaning the seas of military fleets; withdrawing armies from the lands of others; removing offensive weapons so that only defensive ones would remain within the limits of regional waters; and handing over criminals involved in terrorist crimes or operations to Interpol.

Al-Qadhdhafi said he has already brought forward an international plan to overcome hazardous diseases like AIDS, polio, and cancer. He also called for setting up a UN-affiliated fund to protect the environment and the atmosphere, fight desertification, and set up a system to secure the flow of river and rain water.

In the introduction of the interview, Ibrahim Nafi' said to al-Qadhdhafi: I fear that following this interview, your aides might come up with conflicting statements and aggravate the situation further. Secretary general so-and-so or chairman of the such-and-such committee might make conflicting statements, which might cause a misunderstanding in world media apparatus, particularly since the names of these committees are incomprehensible to world public opinion. Al-Qadhdhafi replied: This is our system and the people in Libya rule, legislate, and execute.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi said: I am not the president of a state and I have no legislative or executive powers. However, there should be no contradiction in connection with our declared basic stands.

Supreme Court Judge on Extradition

NC0812153791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Dec (MENA)—Counselor Ahmad Tahir al-Zawi, the Libyan Supreme Court judge assigned to investigate the charges leveled against two Libyans accused of downing a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland on 21 December 1988, has stated that Libyan criminal procedures law absolutely does not allow the extradition of any Libyan citizen to a foreign country to stand trial, regardless of the charges made against him.

In an international news conference he held this afternoon, Counselor al-Zawi stated that Article 296 of this law stipulates that whoever undertakes, with the intent of murder, any actions that could endanger public security, not including acts of assault against international security [as received], shall be imprisoned for a period

not less than 10 years. Should such actions result in the murder of one or more individuals, the punishment will be the death sentence, he added.

Counselor al-Zawi added that after the bill of indictment in this case was made public by the Scottish and British public attorneys three years after the incident, the chief jurist in the District of Columbia in the United States indicted two Libyan citizens as being behind the incident. When the Libyan authorities were informed of the indictment, these authorities should have referred the matter to the competent investigating authority in Libya; that is, the public prosecution. But because of the importance of the matter and the abominable nature of the crime, it was decided to choose a Supreme Court counselor to handle the investigations of the matter.

Counselor al-Zawi said that the defendants have been placed under house arrest under strict guard and have been banned from leaving the country.

In answer to a reporter's question, al-Zawi said that so far there has been no indictment except that submitted by the Scottish public attorney, who referred the investigation to the British public prosecutor, who in turn issued an order to arrest the suspects. He continued: When Libyan authorities were notified of this, we asked them to inform us officially, via one of the embassies tha' handles their interests in the Jamahiriyah, which of the three following choices they would make: first, to send us a copy of the investigations and documents that led to the conviction that these two individuals had perpetrated this crime; second, to issue an order enabling us to examine these investigations and documents; or third, to set up an appointment for a personal meeting between myself and the British public prosecutor and the chief jurist to discuss the issue in a legal context, not in the context of the material published by the press and other media or in a political context. Regrettably we have not received a response to this request to date.

When the BBC correspondent said that London had announced that this request had been rejected, Counselor al-Zawi said that he had not yet received such an official response.

He added that he had officially asked the Maltese authorities to "allow us to go to Malta to take the required legal measures in light of the fact that the British accusation included a reference that some witnesses are Maltese nationals and that the doomed plane's flight originated in Malta."

In response to another question, al-Zawi said that if sufficient evidence is found that the two Libyan citizens had perpetrated the crime or that other persons had assisted them, an indictment will be issued and they will subsequently be referred to a competent court.

Counselor al-Zawi was asked: Will they be tried in Libya or extradited? He answered: Libyan law stipulates that a Libyan citizen who commits a crime abroad and returns to Libya shall be tried only in Libya. He added: We have a bill of indictment saying that these two people committed a crime, and we must start investigating them (?now). We are, and we will file charges if it is proved that these two actually committed this crime or were accomplices. Then they will be tried.

Al-Zawi stated that under Libyan penal code, downing planes and travel [as received] are punishable as violent crimes. Answering a British journalist, he said that he does not know of any country that extradites nationals who committed a crime in another country.

Counselor al-Zawi added that before the 1 September revolution, when there were British and U.S. bases in Libya, a U.S. soldier ran over and killed a Libyan citizen. Libya, he added, was not allowed to try the soldier, although the crime occurred on Libyan territory. They justified this by saying that the soldier was a marine and that we had no authority to try him. He added: We are applying Libyan law. The Tokyo and Montreal agreements [not further specified] stipulated that such cases must observe the laws of the country concerned. Our law does not allow for extradition, he added.

Counselor al-Zawi told foreign reporters who asked to interview or at least see the suspects that they could submit a request which would be considered. Told that some world media representatives had already met them, Al-Zawi said that was before they were put under house arrest, but in any case their request would be considered.

Foreign Liaison Bureau on 'False' Charges

LD0612182891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1658 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Dec (JANA)—A spokesman of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has made the following statement:

The issue pertaining to the false accusations leveled against Libya has been undertaken by the Arab League and the United Nations as of yesterday, 5 December 1991, through the issuance of the Arab League Resolution in this connection. A committee from the Arab League and the United Nations has been set up to take charge of this case following the confirmation of Libya's innocence, and the support voiced by the world for Libya against the conspicuous U.S. terrorism, and once all the cards of the United States and Britain have been burned out.

Faced with the conclusive truths that they failed to face, the United States has resorted to slanderous vilification, and Britain has resorted to the language of threats and warnings.

Al-Turayki on 'Conspiracy'

LD0712182291 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libyan representative at the Arab League, by unidentified correspondent, on the emergency session of the Arab League Council on 5 December; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Turayki] To begin with I would like to say that all the Arab states responded swiftly. The Arab states were represented at a very high level and they responded unanimously. I acquainted the brother delegates of the Arab states with the situation and the efforts made by the Jamahiriyah to ensure that the situation does not escalate. I also briefed them on the sound legal position of the Jamahiriyah as well as the conspiracy which is taking place against the Jamahiriyah and its people.

[Correspondent] The resolution was unanimously adopted.

[Al-Turayki] Yes. I believe that the resolution is very important and has proved total solidarity. The Arab states expressed their solidarity with the Jamahiriyah, their opposition to the states that are threatening the Jamahiriyah, and their (?support) for the Jamahiriyah against any hostile economic or military action. The Arab states also expressed their total appreciation for the way the Jamahiriyah displayed self-restraint, and for its cooperation and understanding. This in fact was satisfactory to everyone and appreciated by all. The Arab states also proposed measures which they believe may help and contribute to the solution of the problem in accordance with international law and international criteria. They supported the view of the Jamahiriyah that there should be recourse to international arbitration and impartial international justice. The Arab states decided to set up an Arab League and UN committee to look into the British and American claims.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Ali, please give us if you can a brief analysis of the elements of the American and British claims against the Great Jamahiriyah at this particular time.

[Al-Turayki] As a matter of fact as you (?said) the issue is not new. The council of the foreign ministers of Arab states has met more than once in the past to confront American threats against the Jamahiriyah. The Security Council as well as the UN General Assembly has met several times too. This is in addition to other international and regional organizations. The Jamahiriyah has been subjected to direct aggression before, as well as campaigns of blackmail and fabrications. [Words indistinct] the U.S. Administration mounted a campaign of [words indistinct], [name indistinct], the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, tendered his resignation when he became convinced of the campaign of deception. The accusation against the Jamahiriyah is part of the same plan and aims at finding fruitless justifications. [passage omitted]

Al-Turayki Praises Egypt's Mubarak

NC0712204891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1954 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has expressed his country's appreciation for the role President Husni Mubarak is playing to resolve the U.S.-Libya crisis. He said: We have full confidence in President Mubarak and in Egypt, which has a responsibility to bear in the region. We hope the other side will respond to Egypt's efforts to avoid an escalation of the situation and reach a peaceful solution.

At a news conference this evening, al-Turayki disclosed that a Libyan judge has actually begun to interrogate and listen to those charged by the United States and Britain of being behind the American Pan Am plane incident in 1988.

He said that the Libyan judge has asked for the findings of the U.S. and British investigations and for whatever evidence the two countries have. He affirmed that Libya is willing to receive judges from the United States and Britain to participate in the current (?investigations) in Libya.

He also affirmed that Libya accepts the appointment of any judge chosen by the United Nations and the Arab League, whether from the United States, France, Italy, or any UN member state. He said his country wants to solve the problem by peaceful means through international organizations.

Al-Turayki voiced his pleasure at the Arab countries' response to Libya's request to hold an emergency meeting of the Arab League, noting that these countries agreed to hold a session in less than 24 hours.

He said: We appreciate the stand of Egypt and President Mubarak who, from the beginning, tried to follow up the situation seriously, as well as the brother Arabs to whom Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent messages about this issue and who showed full understanding of the Libyan point of view that calls for not escalating the situation and for dialogue and arbitration.

He added that, after the issuance of the Arab League resolution, the issue is now in the hands of the Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and the League council. He noted that the League council has asked Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid to follow up the matter and that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has begun his efforts by contacting the UN secretary general and the parties concerned. The League council, he said, has considered itself in continuous session to follow up the situation.

Al-Turayki noted that the issue now is in safe hands, those of the Arab League and the United Nations.

He said that the United States, Britain, and France announced in past months that they sought to enhance the United Nations and they sought UN help in the Gulf crisis. Therefore, he added, Libya sees that seeking UN help must not be selective and that the United Nations should be the ultimate authority in solving members' problems. He went on: We want [word indistinct] to play a role in this issue.

He pointed out that the contacts between the Arab League secretary general and the UN secretary general may produce a formula acceptable to the various parties.

Replying to a question on the likelihood of Libya handing over the two men for trial in an Arab country, he said that when the parties concerned agree to form a neutral committee for investigation, this committee will decide the way and means of dealing with the issue if the other parties agree on the Arab League's proposal.

On the possibility of the United States resorting to military action or imposing economic sanctions against Libya, he said military action, should it take place against Libya, would be a very serious act for the whole region and would constitute a flagrant violation of all international norms. Resorting to armed force, he added, breaches the UN Charter, which calls for solving problems by peaceful means. He noted that Libya and some European countries have warned of the consequence of any military action and that the Arab League has been clear in this respect.

He asserted that Libya is continuing its policy of self-restraint, which it adopted at the start of the crisis and which the Arab League Council endorsed in its latest resolution, because Libya does not want to escalate the situation but wants to solve the problem. Libya, he said, has proposed international justice and arbitration as the maximum extent to which it can go to prove its innocence.

He expressed his hope that the United States and Britain will not carry out any military action because such an action would be a serious development affecting the entire region and the peace process that began in the region, as well as European countries.

He hopes that all parties concerned will show wisdom and reason and agree to cooperate to find out the truth and prevent the escalation of the situation.

Commenting on the economic sanctions, he said they violate international law and are against UN resolutions and [words indistinct] and cannot help solve the problem.

On the true aims of stirring this issue at this particular time, he said that the issue has dimensions other than the plane incident, adding that it is the big stick policy. He said: We were hoping that the United States, Britain, and France would respect what is said about the new world order, the respect for international laws, and resorting to the United Nations to solve problems. However, the aim of (?raising) this issue seems to be political subjugation.

He pointed out that despite this situation, Libya has not and will not be an obstacle on the road of peace; all Arabs have accepted peace and the Arab delegations are now in Washington while the Israeli delegation is the one not attending the peace meetings. He said that it is the Israelis, not the Arabs, who are now refusing every peace initiative and are still pursuing the settlement policy and rejecting any peace initiative not within the context of their policy to end the Palestinians' existence.

He said Libya has informed the UN secretary general and the Security Council president of the U.S. threats and of Libya's readiness to accept international arbitration, dialogue, and negotiations. He added that Libya did not ask for a Security Council meeting because some of the countries accusing Libya have the right to [word indistinct] thus the issuance of a Security Council resolution is unlikely.

On international support for Libya, he said that the OAU has issued a communique supporting a statement on the Libyan stand that calls for resorting to international arbitration, which was also the stand of the Islamic Conference Organization secretary general. He added that the issue is to be put forth at the Islamic summit conference, due to be held in Dakar in a few days.

Al-Turayki welcomed any (?public) international effort, especially on the part of the Soviet Union to ease the situation and find a peaceful solution to this problem.

Reportedly Offers To Hand Over Suspects

NC0812140091 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 7 Dec 91 p 1

[Report by Badr-al-Din Adham]

[Text] Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League has offered to hand over to an Arab country the two Libyan citizens accused of downing the U.S. Pan Am plane, as a goodwill gesture to solve the crisis peacefully.

Libya's delegate Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki has informed the Arab League Council of positive measures [by Libya] disproving Libyan involvement in any terrorist operations. He denied there were so-called terrorists' training camps in his country.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that he will try to meet all the parties to the dispute immediately and consult the UN urgently.

Islamic Support on Lockerbie Anticipated

LD0712205291 Rabat MAP in English 1342 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 7 (MAP)—The Libyan minister of external relations, Ibrahim Bishari, said here that he expects the Islamic countries' leaders due to attend the

summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to provide support to Libya in its current dispute with the U.S. and Great Britain over the Lockerbie issue.

Bishari is presently taking part in the ministerial session convening in Dakar for the preparation of the OIC summit to open here next Monday.

The political commission has not yet taken a stance on the issue and postponed it for consultations until this Saturday morning.

The Libyan official denounced the campaign currently waged by the U.S. and Great Britain against Libya and reiterated Libya's call for the dispatching of an international commission to conduct an impartial investigation on the Lockerbie incident.

Bishari notably emphasized that Libya has nothing to do whatsoever with terrorism.

African Parliaments Express 'Solidarity'

LD0812171591 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, 8 December JANA—The assistant secretary of the General People's Congress last night met in Tripoli with the Secretary General of the Union of African Parliaments Henry Adossis.

The meeting, attended by the secretary for the affairs of syndicates and professional unions and associations to the secretariat of the General People's Congress, discussed arrangements for holding the 15th conference of the Union of African Parliaments and the executive committee of the union in its 28th session to be held in Great Jamahiriyah next year.

Henry Adossis pointed out, during the meeting, that the union followed with interest the American-British accusations against Great Jamahiriyah. He reaffirmed the solidarity of the Union of African Parliaments with the stance of Great Jamahiriyah towards this issue and that the union will circulate the stance of Great Jamahiriyah amongst the member states of the union.

Henry Adossis called for finding a just solution, based on international neutrality, to this issue.

OAU Leader Praises Investigation Measures

LD0812172291 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Addis Ababa, 8 December JANA—The secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity [OAU] lauded the measures taken by the Great Jamahiriyah to facilitate the investigation process into the American and British claims alleging the involvement of two Libyan nationals in the Lockerbie incident in 1988.

The secretary general of the OAU, in a statement issued here today, all concerned parties for self-restraint and to look for a solution to the issue through dialogue and peaceful means in accordance with international law. [sentence as received]

He concluded his statement by calling on the international community to safeguard the rule of law, resort to reason and avoid hindering the legal procedures.

Extradition Request 'Absurd'

AU0612113291 Rome ANSA in English 1029 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Rome, 5 December (ANSA)—The Libyan Government considers "absurd" the United States and British request for the extradition of two Libyans under indictment for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner in which 270 people were killed but is prepared to try the two in Libya in the presence of "observers and representatives of the families of the victims," said the Libyan ambassador to Rome, 'Abd Al-Rahman Shalqam.

"If there is the will to reach a compromise, everything is possible," said the ambassador at a press conference before going on to accuse the United States and Britain of mixing "aspects of law and those of politics" through the news media.

The diplomat also cited a note issued by his government on what was described as the "premeditated desire for aggression" against Libya by the United States and Britain. These nations, said the note, have laid down conditions which "have no basis in international legality or international law" and are "openly in opposition to the United Nations (Charter?)."

"We must obey the law, and our laws establish that a Libyan must be tried in Libya for the crimes he is charged with," said 'Abd Al- Rahman Shalqam.

After proclaiming Libya's innocence of involvement in the Lockerbie bombing of December 1988, in which all 259 people aboard the Pan Am Boeing 747 and 11 people on the ground were killed, the ambassador said his nation would allow "international observers, foreign lawyers and representatives of the families of the victims to attend a trial."

After explaining this position, he spoke of Libya's "willingness to accept a compromise."

Shalqam also denied that the two Libyans named in the indictments were ever members of the intelligence services and said they were "two civilians" the United States and Britain consider "guilty before they have tried them." The two nations have chosen the channels of the mass media to communicate with Tripoli and have ignored "more useful channels such as the diplomatic ones and the United Nations."

With reference to French charges that Libyans were also responsible for the bombing of a French DC-10 which crashed in Chad, the ambassador said "no extradition request has arrived in Libya yet" and affirmed that his

country is "prepared to cooperate with France just as it is with the United States and Britain."

Libyan 'Good Intentions' Noted

LD0712170691 Tripoli JANA in English 1552 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanoun 7 [Dec], JAMAHIRIYAH News Agency—JANA came to know that a group of experts in international law have asserted that the readiness of Great Jamahiriyah to refer the issue of the U.S. and British accusations to the International Court of Justice or the invitation to her judicial sides to be present in Great Jamahiriyah and to conduct investigations inside it, confirmed that such a thing was voluntary and it was not forced by law upon doing it which was an evidence of its truthfulness and good intentions.

Netherlands Mediation Sought

WA0612024191 Paris AFP in English 0204 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Hilversum, Netherlands, Dec 8 (AFP)—Libya is seeking Dutch mediation in connection with U.S. and British demands to try two of its agents for bombing a Pan Am jetliner over Scotland, the Libyan ambassador to the Benelux countries said on Saturday.

In an interview with the Dutch television station VARA, Sharaf Aldieen Al-Fethori [name as received] said the Libyan foreign minister had made the request in a letter to Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

Al-Fethori said the Netherlands, which currently holds the presidency of the European Community, could play an "essential and positive role" as a mediator.

The Libyan Government was also seeking a new inquiry into the 1988 midair bombing which left 270 people dead that would be "objective" and take into account the "judicial and political aspects" of the affair.

Al-Fethori said the inquiry could be conducted by the United Nations, the International Court of Justice in The Hague, or the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Last month the United States and Britain both issued indictments against two Libyan secret service agents for the bombing, which occurred over the Scottish town of Lockerbie.

Libya recently said a Libyan investigating magistrate had interrogated the two men but found no evidence of wrongdoing. t has refused to hand the two over to Britain and the United States for trial.

JANA Editor on UK 'Threats'

LD0612215391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Dec (JANA)—The JANA political editor has commented on the statements made by Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the British Foreign Ministry [Foreign and Commonwealth Office], in which he hinted at threats against the Great Jamahiriyah under what he called "open choices." The editor stressed that Libya rejects the tone and language of threats. Moreover, Britain had nothing to do with the problem, which was between us and the United States, and has no right to speak regarding that problem....

The editor said that the crash of the Pan Am aircraft over the region of Lockerbie was a coincidence that does not give Britain the right to release those uncouth statements which we cannot accept or tolerate.

Editor on Libyan 'Right to Innocence'

LD0712183791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Dec (JANA)— The JANA political editor writes: Matters have now started to become clear and reality has been revealed which distances Libya totally from the groundless accusations made against it. Those who made the accusations have failed to provide evidence to confirm the validity of their accusations, so they are beginning to manipulate the words and facts by saying that it appears that Libya has a role in this operation—the American aircraft incident. In turn, Libya insists on the continuation of the investigations, the identification of the real assailant, and his exposure before the world so that Libya's innocence can be proved. Libya will not compromise its right to innocence.

Sudan

Paper on Tunisian Hit Squads, Phoenix Meeting

NC0712123191 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Dec 91 p 6

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Khartoum, Washington—(Exclusive): The "Brothers" page has learned from high-level Sudanese sources that a group of 16 Tunisians recently left Khartoum for Paris and Tunis.

The sources said that this group is one of several assassination squads entrusted to kill 14 Tunisian security men, described by the Ghannouchi group as "the Formidables" [al-Jabbarin].

The units are said to have trained intensively at the al-Ma'aqil camp, which is attached to the Sudanese Armed Forces northern command near Shandi, about 170 km north of Khartoum.

The sources added that these squads are formed according to an agreement between Rachid Ghannouchi and Hasan al-Turabi—who first called for Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to be liquidated—describing him chief of the Formidables.

The agreement, sources noted, stipulated that Sudan will train and arm the squads and that the Tunisian squad will carry out the orders.

Two consignments of weapons are said to have arrived in the border town of Qafsah in Tunisia and been received by Bouezzah, a follower of Ghannouchi.

The "Brothers" page has secured a list of Tunisian security officers targeted for assassination. They are: Hamadi Hallasi, alias Mohamed al-Nasir, head of the religious section of Tunisian security; Mahmoud el-Jaouadi, head of the guidance division; Mohsen Abdesselem; Abderrauf Bilshaykh; Salah Malalah; al-Munsif Bin-Qabilah; 'Amr Atukayri; Mohamed Hasan; Abderrahmane Kacen; Taoufik Hachani; Bechir Saidi; Mahmoud Ben Ammar; Ibrahim Sebai; and al-Moncef Mazouz.

Dr. Ibrahim Natali, a member of the Bulgarian Parliament [name and title as published], said last week that Sudan has become a world center for the Islamic movement.

Natali belongs to the Bulgarian Freedoms and Rights Party and maintains special relations with the al-Turabi group, having about two weeks ago invited him to attend a peace conference in Khartoum agreed with the Japanese committee for Bhudist sects.

Cadres of hardline world religious movements, including those in the Arab region, have recently begun receiving intensive military training in four camps in Sudan. These are: the al-Kadru camp, north of Khartoum, which accommodates 300 cadres; a camp near the town of al-Kamilin, south of Khartoum, which accommodates about 400 cadres of various nationalities; the Jabal al-Awliya' camp, which accommodates about 150 cadres; and the Sawba camp, which is directly controlled by the Sudanese security services.

Hasan al-Turabi and Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman spoke at a graduation ceremony for 18 trainees from Kashmir in the past fortnight. 'Uthman, a Sudanese minister of state and secretary general of the People's Friendship Council, visited Cairo recently. Before the 30 June 1989 coup, he chaired al-Turabi's International Islamic Student Federation, in which he oversaw al-Turabi's followers' foreign relations and helped establish religious student movements in Asia, Africa, and Europe. He failed to establish a branch of the federation in Cairo.

"The Brothers" has also learned that leaders of the international organization of extremist religious movements will meet in Phoenix, Arizona from 21 to 26 December 1991 under the guise of a symposium organized by a Muslim and Arab youth league. It will be attended by Hasan al-Turabi, Rachid Ghannouchi, Yusuf al-Qardawi, Jasim al-Muhallil, Dr. 'Isam Bashir, Salman al-'Awdah, Yasin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Dr. Muhammad al-Rashid.

AL-SADA [The Echo], published by religious movements in the United States and edited by Muhsin al-Mubarak and Ahmad Zakariya, advertised this symposium. Informed sources claim that Phoenix, in the western United States, was chosen as the venue because it is out of the way and would not attract attention.

The United States recently refused Ghannouchi entry to attend the meeting which, reports say, will discuss the international organization of religious movements' post-Gulf war plans and policies.

An important Arab Gulf state has warned Gulf financial institutions linked to al-Turabi's group of the consequences of continuing ties. The institutions' heads funded al-Turabi's group and Khartoum's ruling regime even during the Gulf war.

Sources also revealed that two weeks ago the Sudanese military government allowed an important African Arab country's opposition party to open a bureau in Khartoum. Khartoum accuses the Arab country of supporting its opponents. This opposition party has close ties with al-Turabi's group and other extremist religious parties inside the region and elsewhere.

Officials Comment on Juba Situation

Governor: Security 'Stable'

EA0612192491 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Dec (SUNA)—Colonel Martin Malwal Deng, governor of Upper Nile state, has revealed that great numbers of returnees from the rebel movement have surrendered themselves to the state government. His Excellency Malwal, who yesterday returned from Malakal, the Upper Nile state capital, told the AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH newspaper published here today that the security situation in the state was stable and that citizens were going about their normal activities. He added that the supply situation in the state was reassuring, and he pointed out that river barges that would arrive at Malakal next week would help stabilize the situation, especially after the arrival of great numbers of the returnees.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman, the chief of general staff, yesterday afternoon returned to Khartoum from Malakal town after a (?four)-day inspection tour of the Upper Nile area, during which he assured himself of the state of health and medical facilities. He also toured the front lines to assure himself of the state of the fighters and to inspect the (?efficiency) of the weapons and equipment. He also met officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men. He emphasized to them the revolution's utmost

care for the armed forces and its keen desire to increase its combat efficiency; he pointed out that peace would not be restored except through their hands and their faith, power, and strength—which would enable the armed forces to score the final victory against the outlaws.

Col. Khalifah on Recent Shelling

EA0612180591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and head of the peace and external relations department, in a statement to Radio Juba prior to his departure from Juba airport yesterday described his visit to the [Equatoria] state as being very successful by all measures, particularly after the recent random shelling. His excellency said that the residents needed a morale boost and said that similar tours to the field by officials would continue until the morale of the state was raised to the (?required) level. He announced that administrative issues [words indistinct] of concern to the state would be implemented immediately upon his return to Khartoum.

Rebels Abducted 50,000 Children

EA0812130591 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Juba, 8th December (SUNA)—RCC [Revolution Command Council] member Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has affirmed during his recent visit to here that the rebellion movement has resorted to sabotage acts, vowing that Juba will be the graveyard for the outlaws if they attempt to approach it. Khalifah was speaking at a meeting with the government of the Equatoria state and members of the people's committees in the state during the visit. He explained the government's efforts for the attainment of peace in the Sudan and the anti-peace acts of the rebel movement [such] as its kidnapping of 50,000 children.

Equatoria Governor on 'Lies'

EA0712175591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Major General Saturnino Harikha, governor of Equatoria State, affirmed that citizens of Equatoria are striving for peace, justice, and unity in Sudan. He said that what happened in Juba town recently is not strange to the citizens of Equatoria, nor are the sabotage practices of the rebel Garang [commander of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army]. He said: We will stand in one line against rebellion and work for peace. He pointed out that the peace process requires the efforts of all Sudanese, and he confirmed Equatoria's confidence in the National Salvation Revolution and its leadership on the basis of the common aims that are represented by the unity of Sudan.

Maj. Gen. Harikha said that the opening of the national [as heard] radio station from Juba town refutes the claims and lies of the foreign information [organs] in the reports they circulated, namely on the closure of Juba airport. It also confirms to the world that life is proceeding normally and that air traffic in Juba is normal.

His excellency described the rebel Garang as serving foreign countries and interests and selling their homelands and themselves to others.

Maj. Gen. Harikha called on the citizens in other states to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the homeland. He praised the role of the armed forces in this respect.

Relief Agencies May Quit Juba

EA0612202191 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Dec (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has disclosed that some aid organizations have threatened to halt relief supplies to Juba town, the capital of Equatoria state, on the pretext that the armed forces were preparing to retake the rebel-held town of Torit, his excellency said here yesterday when he addressed health sector employees within the framework of the comprehensive strategy conference. He said that a media campaign was being unleashed against the government merely because it is [word indistinct] democracy and human rights, pointing out that whenever we increase (?adherence) to our cause, aid shrank and we were blockaded economically. He emphasized, however, that we would not abandon our beliefs and our sovereignty.

Residents To Protest Shelling

EA0812191591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] The town of Juba will go out tomorrow, Monday, in a peaceful procession in protest against the random shelling to which the town was exposed by the rebel movement. The Popular Committees, the workers' trade unions of Equatoria state, the Steering Committees of teachers, students, sports clubs; the voluntary organizations at the state, the Sudanese Women's General Federation, chiefs, and trade unions of Equatoria state provinces will all take part in the peaceful procession. The procession will be addressed by the wali [governor] of the state, Saturnino Harikha. The procession will submit a memorandum on the importance of achieving peace, supporting the revolution's peace efforts, and denouncing the barbaric acts of the rebel movement by the shelling of civilian targets.

Baghdad's Ballistic Capability Said Destroyed

NC0912161191 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 9 (AFP)—Iraq has destroyed the components of a giant cannon, one meter in diameter, and has now eliminated all its declared ballistic weapons of mass destruction, the head of a U.N. inspection team reported here Monday.

"The destruction of everything the Iraqis had identified as part of their ballistic capacity has been verified," Patrice Palanque of France told reporters.

Palanque headed a United Nations mission that left Monday after confirming the destruction of 32 fixed missile sites in western Iraq as well as 288 launch platforms since its arrival December 2.

The visit was in accordance with UN resolutions approved after the Gulf war aimed at securing Iraq's partial disarmament.

Before leaving, Palanque said his inspectors had enjoyed "good cooperation with the Iraqis."

"This week we verified the destruction of components of a 1,000 millimeter super cannon," he said, adding that the operation on the steel tubes was carried out at a base at Iskandiria 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of here.

In October, Iraq destroyed another super cannon, with a diameter of 350 millimeters.

Iraq in July acknowledged that it was pursuing a program to develop super guns capable of hurling shells up to 800 kilometers (500 miles).

From June to August 61 missiles were eliminated, most of then SCUDs used to attack Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf war, according to Palanque.

Three Kuwaitis at al-Bakr Oil Terminal 'Rescued'

JN0812142291 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Samawa, Dec. 8, INA—Iraqi technicians working on the southern Iraqi al-Bakr oil terminal on Saturday rescued three Kuwaitis whose boat was damaged inside Iraqi territorial waters.

They were provided with humanitarian needs and handed over to the Iraqi representative at the UN Liaison Committee.

Opposition Mouthpiece—Kuwaitis 'Kidnapped'

NC0912162791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] The tyrant regime's forces have kidnapped three Kuwaitis from Arabian Gulf waters. Radio Baghdad yesterday claimed that the al-Bakr marine platform monitored three Kuwaitis approaching in a boat. They were arrested.

Kuwaiti authorities had warned fishermen against entering international waters north of the Gulf where the tyrant regime's forces carry out public piracy.

Some of the defeated regime's forces, dressed as civilians, along with civilian regime henchmen repeatedly infiltrate the neutral zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti forces recently arrested many of these people, and Kuwaiti authorities have set up five posts to prevent their operations and arrest the perpetrators.

Reliable Kuwaiti sources have said that the Kuwaiti Government holds the tyrant's regime responsible for the safety of the kidnapped Kuwaitis and will work for their release through international organizations.

European Parliament Claims on North Challenged

JN0812161191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1533 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has described the European Parliament's claims, concerning the situation in northern Iraq, as part of an exposed series of positions aimed at finding justifications for issuing new resolutions to harm Iraq and its territorial sovereignty.

In a statement issued in reply to the European Parliament's resolution, announcing an EC call on the United Nations to maintain its presence in northern Iraq and guarantee the so-called refugees' security in the region, the National Assembly urged the European Parliament to carefully examine the false reports, which are reaching it from anti-peace societies, that are trying to create obstacles and block the promotion of relations between the Iraqi National Assembly and the European Parliament.

The statement stresses Iraq's eagerness to treat all minorities in Iraq, including Kurds, Turkomans, Assyrians, and Chaldeans, as Iraqis, without any discrimination between them and the Arab citizens.

The statement also draws the European Parliament's attention to the fact that there are many international issues, including some states' human rights violations, that deserve the European Parliament's condemnation.

Iraq, the statement noted, had made numerous decisions granting amnesty to all rioters in the north and south, and has invited them to return to the country. Many of those people have actually returned, as proven by statistics, the statement added.

The European Parliament's demand for continued UN military presence in northern Iraq runs counter to international law and the UN Charter, the second article of the first paragraph of which stipulates equality among all nations. The seventh paragraph of the same article also states that the United Nations must refrain from getting involved in the internal affairs of a member state.

The Assembly noted that the national rights and gains won by our Kurdish people over a quarter century have been consecrated by the fact that they are both Kurds and Iraqis. In contrast, the Kurds in other countries are denied their most basic human rights, especially in light of the fact that they are more numerous in other countries.

Regarding the cultural rights enjoyed by Turkomans in Iraq, the Assembly recalled Revolution Command Council Resolution (?89) of 24 January 1970, granting the Turkomans their cultural rights, including the teaching of the Turkoman language in primary schools and providing for the use of Turkoman in visual aids in all schools where Turkoman is the language of instruction. This is in addition to the introduction of a directorate for Turkoman studies attached to the Ministry of Education.

The Assembly pointed out that this decision has enabled Turkoman poets and writers to launch their own union, helped them to publish their own writings, and provided them with opportunities to enhance their linguistic capabilities. Besides, the Assembly added, this decision linked their union with the Union of Iraqi Writers. Moreover, a Turkoman Cultural Department, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Information, was introduced. Additionally, a Turkoman weekly and a Turkoman monthly magazine were allowed to be published. Turkoman programs on Karkuk Television were increased, the Assembly statement noted.

The statement issued by the National Assembly added that Iraq is taking interest in the Turkomans' social activities. Thus, it built the Turkoman Fraternity Club in Baghdad for Turkomans, so they can freely conduct cultural and social activities. The club is managed by an administrative council comprised of nine people, all of whom are Turkomans. Two branches for the club were opened in the capital cities of Irbil and Mosul. The club has conducted social activities through the issuance of a monthly magazine named Qardashalq [Turkoman word as received], "Fraternity." Furthermore, the club published Turkoman books on the Turkoman heritage in Iraq, not to mention the frequent holding of cultural seminars.

The Assembly indicated that the past few days have seen the adoption of new measures in al-Ta'mim Governorate. The Assembly statement added: These measures led to the unrestricted sale and purchase of commodities by all citizens, regardless of their national or religious affiliations. These measures were taken after a series of plans aimed at doing away with emergency laws had been endorsed. The adoption of emergency laws was dictated by previous circumstances. The adoption of these new measures coincides with the prevalence of stability in the country, and is meant to further enhance security and stability for all citizens.

The Assembly expressed amazement that the European Parliament fabricates information on the situation of Turkomans in Iraq in the wake of the so-called "Gulf crisis." It seems, the Assembly noted, that foreign parties are making up this issue in line with the principle of "divide and rule," which prevailed in international relations on the heels of World War I.

Concluding its statement, the National Assembly said that the esteemed European Parliament, at the behest of anti-peace forces, is adopting a course hostile to Iraq, and interfering in the domestic affairs of a UN member state. This is not the job of the European Parliament. The Assembly statement adds: It would have been more becoming for the Parliament to call for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq and its people after the elapse of 15 months since the passage of the UN Security Council resolution. On this occasion, we would like to remind you of the excesses committed by the coalition states in contradiction with the provisions enshrined in the Security Council resolutions. The issue has become the mere destruction of Iraq and its people, no more and no less.

Six Helicopters Attack Peshmerga Positions

No Casualties Reported

NC0712173791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1650 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Six helicopters shelled Peshmerga positions in (Mawjul) City for 15 minutes. No casualties were reported.

Republican Guards Occupy al-Najaf

NC0712163791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The defeated tyrant's forces staged a large scale offensive operation aimed at occupying the holy city of al-Najaf and the rapid deployment in its streets, alleys, and important centers.

A number of brigades, including forces from the Republican Guards units that were deployed around al-Najaf, took part in this provocative attack that lasted two hours. It was supported by tank regiments and armored vehicles, which took up positions in the city's most vital points.

The regime aimed to frighten and scare the people of al-Najaf, who played a prominent role in resisting the dictatorship. [passage omitted]

Helicopter Downed; Officers Killed

NC0812151791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Iraqi sources said that the large-scale attack carried out by the defeated tyrant's forces with the aim of occupying al-Najaf and rapidly deploying in its streets, quarters, and important centers was designed to strike terror in the hearts of al-Najaf residents who played a prominent role in resisting the dictatorial regime. [passage omitted]

Iraqi opposition troops succeeded in killing the commander and staff officers of the military division which, on the tyrant's orders, attacked fleeing families who had

taken refuge in the southern marshlands. Opposition sources said that the helicopter in which these officers were flying was downed and its occupants killed in late November by resistance fighters and patriotic clansmen in that revolutionary area.

BABIL Terms Talabani 'Unprincipled Opportunist'

NC0712161391 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 7 (AFP)—An Iraqi newspaper on Saturday unleashed a scathing attack on Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani, describing him as an unprincipled opportunist who has had secret contacts with Israeli intelligence.

"He is a man who will do anything to get his way—even if it means cutting the throats of his relatives," charged the newspaper BABIL, managed by the son of President Saddam Husayn, 'Udayy.

The journal branded Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, as a man "without principles, unbalanced, opportunistic and egotistical."

It said Israeli Army radio in October reported that Talabani had held a secret meeting in Turkey with the head of the Israeli intelligence service Mosad.

"Talabani has been doing everything to cover up his links" with Israel, according to BABIL.

Kurdish leaders, including Talabani, have been negotiating with Iraqi authorities since March in an effort to forge an agreement on autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan.

But Talabani has been holding firm against the Iraqi terms for an accord, in contrast to another Kurdish rebel leader, Mas'ud Barzani, who recently visited Baghdad.

Talabani Seeking Allied Intervention in Kurdistan

NC0812121291 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Manama, Dec 8 (AFP)—A Kurdish rebel leader, Jalal Talabani, has called for a new allied intervention in northern Iraq to allow 200,000 displaced Kurds to return to their homes, AL-HAYAH newspaper reported Sunday.

The allied forces deployed across the border in Turkey should intervene "to resettle around 200,000 Kurds in their communities," Talabani told the Arabic daily over a satellite telephone from Chaqlawah Cham-i in Iraqi Kurdistan.

In the wake of the Gulf war and an aborted anti-Baghdad revolt in March that triggered a mass exodus, an allied operation codenamed "Provide Comfort" helped hundreds of thousands of Kurds to return home.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Thursday that a new wave of around 200,000 Kurds had fled to unsheltered areas near the Iranian border to escape recent Iraqi shelling of Kurdish towns.

Iraq denied the report.

Talabani also told AL-HAYAH that another rebel leader, Mas'ud Barzani, was to brief the Kurdish opposition on his recent talks in Baghdad aimed at reaching an accord on autonomy for the Kurds.

The paper quoted Barzani himself as saying he would propose a referendum on autonomy if the opposition failed to agree on whether to accept the terms on offer from the Iraqi authorities.

A Baghdad newspaper on Saturday unleashed a scathing attack on Talabani, describing him as an unprincipled opportunist who had had secret contacts with Israeli intelligence.

"He is a man who will do anything to get his way—even if it means cutting the throats of his relatives," charged the newspaper BABIL, managed by the son of President Saddam Husayn, 'Udayy.

Talabani has been holding firm against Iraq's terms for an accord, which have been under discussion since April, in contrast to Barzani's optimism for striking a deal with Baghdad.

Opposition Radio on Talabani, Barzani Endeavors

NC0812143891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] London-based AL-HAYAH today quoted Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, as calling on the allied forces to intervene again in northern Iraq to help 200,000 refugees return to their villages. Following the end of the Gulf war last February the allied forces carried out an extensive operation codenamed Provide Comfort in northern Iraq to help hundreds of thousands of Kurds return to the villages they fled during battles between Kurdish fighters and the defeated tyrant's forces.

A UN source in Baghdad said that the new wave of refugees fled their homes when the tyrant's forces intimidated them, bombarding their homes on the outskirts of Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah in mid- November.

Talabani noted that Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], is scheduled to brief Iraqi Kurdistan Front representatives today on his recent talks with the defeated tyrant's officials.

During his recent visit to Baghdad, Barzani tried to ease escalating tension in the north and revive Kurdish autonomy talks which began in April.

Barzani told AL-HAYAH that the front remains divided on the autonomy plan being negotiated with the tyrant, particularly on setting the autonomous region's boundaries. He asserted that he is not trying to strike a secret

deal with the defeated regime and proposed putting the autonomy plan to a referendum.

Shawkat Bamirni, a senior KDP official and Barzani's representative in Tehran, announced that last week's talks with tyrant regime officials on improving conditions for the Kurdish inhabitants of northern Iraq have produced results. Bamirni added that the dictator's regime agreed his forces will stop the bombarding of villages which caused tens of thousands of Kurds to leave their homes last month. He said that the tyrant's government promised to send local officials to the Kurdish areas to restore basic services and end fuel and food shortages.

Bamirni stated that Saddam's authorities also agreed to release Kurdish fighters and POW's and to keep the dictator's troops in their barracks. He added that the Kurds are waiting to discover if the tyrant's regime will adhere to these agreements. It is known that the tyrant Saddam is accustomed to breaking promises and agreements even before the ink with which they are written is dry.

Kurds To Document 200,000 Killings Since 1986

NC0812165091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Kurdish sources have asserted that they have new evidence that the defeated tyrant's authorities have killed 200,000 Iraqi Kurds since 1986. A spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan announced that his group will submit to international human rights organizations 30,000 photographs, videotapes, and other documents proving that the killings took place. These records were made by the tyrant's secret police before and after the victims were executed. The spokesman said that the Kurds possess evidence of the mass graves and the torture chambers used by the tyrant's chambers.

Interior Minister, Intelligence Service Head Sworn In

JN0812100791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0952 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan today took the constitutional oath in front of President Saddam Husayn on his assumption of the post of interior minister.

Staff Lieutenant General Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri also took the constitutional oath before President Saddam Husayn on his assumption of the post of director of the Intelligence Service.

Fadil Sulfayj al-'Azzawi took the constitutional oath before President Saddam Husayn on his assumption of the post of governor of Salah-al-Din governorate.

Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office, attended the ceremony.

Cabinet Session Discusses Budget, Economic Blockade

JN0712142291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1324 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session under Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended.

The Council of Ministers discussed the state budget and practical ways to implement it in light of the unjust economic blockade led by the United States against Iraq.

The council also discussed a number of organizational issues on its agenda and made the necessary decisions and recommendations.

BABIL: Iraqi Airways To Resume Internal Flights

JN0812113791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0852 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—Iraqi Airways will soon resume its internal flights to transport passengers between the capital and other cities.

BABIL today reported that work is in progress now to remove the damage caused by the coalition aircraft to al-Muthanna Airport in Baghdad and to operate it again to serve planes flying between the capital and al-Basrah.

Article Hails Reappearance of BABIL

JN0612180991 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Dec 91 p 8

["Frankly speaking" column by Hatif al-Thalj: "BABIL, a Shield and a Den...Welcome BABIL"]

[Text] The truth is destined to live, and its voice is destined to prevail and constantly rise. Therefore, we have never doubted, even for one second, that the newspaper BABIL would reappear.

It has returned because it is in its destiny to survive and persevere. With the return of our lofty rostrum, we again make sure that the secret of freedom lies in courage.

Through courage the truth gets stronger. A rostrum that created itself by itself, and was proven to be true and pure, should have returned to furnish evidence that the secret of our country lies in its freedom, and that frankness and the facing of facts are among the good traits of our leadership. He who understands life knows that it continues through variety and through positive disagreement, and that he who wants life should see it, and that the truth is not restricted to one point of view; but it cannot be monopolized. BABIL has championed that concept through journalism that people were eager to read, because of its courage, depth, and scope.

It seems, as we understand from the article by Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, that the auspicious return of BABIL brings with it an additional wisdom, that pays

attention to a host of social and cultural considerations, as well as the circumstances of the aggression and the importance of not giving the enemies a chance, and in a way that tackles the phenomena and the cases without mentioning names.

What is important is that courage is a fate, and the courageous cannot be tamed into fear, cowardice, or hesitation. The return of BABIL means the return of another shield that protects the journalist, and another arena in which the writer can operate, a sharp sword that glitters in the memory and eyes of some officials if they opt to relax or commit mistakes.

The return of BABIL is a source of strength to every honorable writer, a guarantee of respect for the words, so that what is written does not stay under the mercy of the whims, the mood, and the extent of ignorance of some officials in charge of publication.

We have to stop at the meanings which were bitterly expressed by great writer, friend 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin, when he complained about the interference in his articles by some chief editors when they crossed things out or omitted them indiscriminantly. This makes us wonder what they are going to do to those who were referred to by Mr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar, and who are below him in rank, job position, and personal creativity? We say that the journalist is the only person who has not the slightest protection, even though he is one who defends all people. The officials can decide the fate of the journalist or the writer by using his work as evidence.

His work is a creative art, and creativity is subject to judgment. The official may be true in his judgment, so the journalist could be subjected to restriction, freezing, transfer, or retirement because he was not well received by the whim of some officials. Therefore, we cannot but express jubilation for the return of BABIL, as a refuge to which journalists can resort when they are facing hard luck, and whenever this or that official decides to play with his writing, and thus his fate. BABIL is a strong fortress for the forces of freedom, and an entrenched den where Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, who I know well, sits. I hope that I have told what I know, so as to astonish readers.

Merchants Rejecting Large Banknotes To Be Jailed

JN0812183091 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 91 p 8

[By Najihah Kazim]

[Text] Finance Minister Dr. Majid 'Abd Ja'far has affirmed that the refusal by salesmen and merchants to accept 25-, 50-, and 100- dinar banknotes will face them with penalty by competent security authorities.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH yesterday, he said that the national currency is various denominations of banknotes which are issued under the law, and that they must not be rejected by any citizen or government employee.

He explained that Article 306 of the Penal Code stipulates that anyone rejecting a legally circulated national banknote will be sentenced to a prison term, not exceeding one year, or will have to pay a fine not exceeding 200 dinars. He pointed out that the punishment will be much more severe if a government or public service employee rejects any of these banknotes.

Regarding counterfeit banknotes finding their way into some banks, he said that banks, as financial institutions, have to prevent any counterfeit banknotes from getting into their assets, and that the fact that banks still provide some citizens with counterfeit banknotes is due to inattention on the part of bank employees and cashiers, or to the workload facing national financial institutions. He stressed the need for the ministry to exert serious efforts to limit such occurrences.

He added that the banks, or financial institutions, will accept counterfeit banknotes from any citizen in return for a receipt that will guarantee that citizen's right to compensation after the soundness of the banknote is verified.

He added that banks attach the received counterfeit banknotes to special forms, containing data about the citizen who handed them over to the bank and about the denomination and source of the counterfeit banknote, and this is then sent to the competent authorities to verify the soundness of the situation and to compensate the citizen.

He also said that the circulation of currency testing devices in the local markets is a healthy phenomenon reflecting extensive popular control. He stressed that cooperation by citizens and shopkeepers in testing and checking banknotes is an important factor for following up and limiting the spread of counterfeit currency.

The finance minister urged citizens to cooperate with the competent authorities and to inform them of any salesmen or merchants who refuse to accept genuine banknotes.

BABIL Alleges Hidden Agenda in Arab-Israel Talks

JN0912114791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0849 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—BABIL has revealed undeclared conditions presented by the U.S. and Israeli sides to the Arab parties to render the settlement [al-taswiyah] conference in Washington a success. In today's editorial, BABIL notes that Israel does not confine its demands to maintaining the territories occupied in 1967; that is, the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan, but makes demands that are not propagated by both the Western and Arab media. And the most prominent demand is the joint investment of money and water sources in the region.

BABIL says: The practical meaning of this demand is the implementation of what Zionism has been propagating;

namely, by uniting the Arab wealth and Zionist mind we can build a progressive Middle East.

The Iraqi paper adds that America supports this Israeli demand and imposes it on the Arab side as one of the major items on the agenda of the settlement negotiations. BABIL says: This means that a decision should be made to allow Israel to benefit from the Nile, al-Litani, al-Kalb, and al-Yarmuk Rivers, the Tigris, and the Euphrates; from the Arab oil and its revenues; and from the Arab geographical location.

BABIL compares these conditions to the demands presented by the Arab parties to the conference, which are united on the slogan of land for peace. This slogan means the restoration of the territories occupied in 1967 in exchange for recognizing Israel and opening borders with it. The paper says that Israel faces this slogan with the principle: Peace for peace.

BABIL pauses at the developments that made Israel adopt an intransigent position toward the Arab delegations, and disavow in its negotiations even the slogan of land for peace which it had previously presented. After the strike on Iraq, Israel behaves as the only strong regional party; and consequently, it can impose its conditions.

The paper expresses the conviction that it is not possible to change the regional balance of power under the current circumstances. The paper says that in light of this, the Arab parties will only harvest disappointment or acceptance of the status quo from the settlement negotiations.

The paper analyzes Washington's stance on the two sides' positions. The paper says: Despite its support for specific Israeli demands, it depicts itself as rejecting other demands such as its adoption of the two slogans: land for peace, and peace for peace. [sentence as received]

BABIL says that at a time when the United States wants to guarantee acceptance of Israel's most important and dangerous demands; namely, the division of Arab wealth and water, it seems ready to return some Arab territories through cunning formulas.

BABIL explains Washington's approaches in this regard. The paper says: There is a suggestion to return the Golan to Syria just for one minute, then to lease it to Israel for 99 years, or to completely demilitarize it. There is another suggestion to form an autonomous entity under Israeli control.

The paper concludes: Throughout history, no settlement lasted unless it was founded on respect for the interests and rights of the parties to the conflict.

Article Notes Reasons for ICO Summit Boycott

Rejection of Saudi 'Tactics'

JN0912100691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Iraq's decision to boycott the Dakar Islamic summit is a rejection of the tactics of bribery and deception orchestrated by Saudi Arabia.

In an article published today, the paper adds that Iraq's decision to boycott this conference reflects a principled Islamic position vis-a-vis all expected practices, which have nothing to do with Islam. The paper goes on to say: Since it joined the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], Iraq has been eager to make sincere, effective, and serious contributions to all the ICO's endeavors, and to participate in its meetings to reflect its faith regarding the importance of solidifying Islamic ranks, and enhancing Islamic solidarity and joint action. This eagerness was also prompted by convictions on the need to contribute toward protecting the ICO members' peoples and support their just cases, foremost among which are the Palestinian people's struggle, and defending Islamic holy places.

The paper affirms that Iraq made this decision after it had ascertained through indisputable facts that Saudi Arabia, since the onset of the U.S.-Western-Zionist aggression against Iraq, along with some of its mercenaries, has chosen to turn the ICO into a tool for implementing the imperialist-Western scheme against Iraq in blatant defiance of the injunctions of the true Islamic religion and to the detriment of the Muslim peoples.

The paper indicates that things have become so adverse that the Saudi rulers have, through their mercenaries, managed to secure the endorsement of a disgraceful resolution, using deception, bribes, and blackmail—a resolution calling for maintaining the blockade imposed on Muslim Iraq—even before the convocation of the Islamic summit.

The paper notes that those who took part in the foreign ministers' meetings in Istanbul rubber stamped the blockade resolution in compliance with a clear U.S. decision to starve Iraqis, and expose them to inhumane suffering and death. Representatives of international and humanitarian organizations, the paper adds, have repeatedly warned against the occurrence of this suffering and death.

The paper goes on to say that these practices have aggravated hatred, and exacerbated division. The paper maintains that efforts should have aimed to further bolster the Muslims' cohesion and unity in the face of the serious challenges confronting the Islamic nation now that the Zionist danger is assuming more perilous proportions, and that the conspiracy to Judaize Jerusalem

and launch a large- scale settlement drive in the occupied Arab territories is gaining momentum.

The paper affirms that the ICO summit's agenda, as the host country admits, is confined to blessing a settlement of the Palestine question as designed in the U.S.-Zionist scheme, endorsing the U.S.-Western scheme against the Iraqi people, and weakening the Islamic front to render it so fragile that it would allow for the continued colonialist plundering and domination. And in this direction, the paper notes, the Saudi role is diligently helping to achieve the U.S. objectives which are hostile to the Islamic people's aspirations as well as the principles of the true Islamic religion.

Saudi 'Conspiratorial Role' Scored

JN0812125591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said the conspiratorial role which Saudi Arabia is playing inside the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] aims at transforming that organization into an instrument to serve the U.S. policy and interests.

In an article today, the paper says the Saudi regime and a group of its mercenaries have made plotting against Iraq and defending U.S. policies toward it one of the ICO's basic objectives. It refers to the 20th conference of the ICO member states' foreign ministers in Istanbul and its call to maintain the inhumane economic blockade imposed on the people of Iraq. It further stresses that Saudi actions violate the ICO's principles and objectives because they help the new and old colonialism, which seeks to impose its hegemony on the Islamic states and plunder the Muslim's resources.

The paper explains that the Dakar conference, which convenes under the tutelage of Washington's agents and brokers with Saudi finance and French security arrangements, does not serve the interest of any Muslim state, but mainly the interests of the United States and its allies. It stresses that the ICO's principles will not stand in Dakar as a result of the Saudi conspiratorial role with all the commissions, political prostitution, bargains, and bribes that this role entails.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The Saudi role in the 30-state aggression against Iraq, in the settlement negotiations, and inside the ICO is now integrated. It began to show its face with increasing impudence and to express itself as a dangerous conspiratorial role serving the U.S. strategy and interests. That role deviates from the true Islam and runs contrary to all honorable human values and ethics.

BABIL—U.S. Planning Preemptive Strike on Libya

JN0812114391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—BABIL has cautioned against a fully prepared U.S. plan to deal a preemptive strike to the economic infrastructure and all institutions and utilities in Libya.

BABIL says today that the U.S. aircraft are currently exercising and bombing select and false targets on islands close to the British coast in preparations for a strike against Libya.

It points out that the White House is going ahead with executing this plan with total support from a new coalition similar to the one Washington set up, with the blessing of international legitimacy, against Iraq.

BABIL also stresses that the strike against Libya, against the backdrop of the Lockerbie scenario, falls within the framework of a series of actions against any pan-Arab current in order to guarantee the security of Israel and destroy any one who threatens it.

The paper wonders if the Arabs will remain completely silent over the expected aggression against Libya, which will be followed by other strikes probably against Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, or Yemen.

Smoke, Toxic Gases Affecting Agricultural Crops

JN0712163891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—Smoke and poisonous gases billowing from the fires started by the thirty-nation aggression on Iraq have slowed up the ripening of palm dates and other agricultural crops in Iraq, according to the findings of a scientific study prepared by Iraqi experts.

The failure of sunlight to get through smoke and poisonous gases from burning oil wells and tankers in the Arabian Gulf during the aggression on Iraq, coupled with a sharp drop in temperatures and humidity, have caused a delayed maturity of the seasons' palm dates.

Early rain contaminated with burning oil and poisonous gases before pollination combined with unaccustomed temperature fluctuations between daytime and nighttime to cause a delayed ripening of the dates.

Shamir on 'Signal' of Delay in Joining Talks

TA0812135791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has said that Israel hopes that its signal has been understood. We will not permit ourselves to be confronted by established facts. Yitzhaq Shamir was commenting on Jerusalem's decision to postpone Israel's participation in the bilateral talks in Washington.

During his political briefing to the cabinet, Shamir pointed out that the Arabs' attempt to turn the deferral into a media event had Failed. The prime minister added that this time Israel decided to take the situation that had developed into account, and to meet all the Arab delegations in Washington simultaneously and not separately.

As for whether the talks will also deal with substantive issues, Shamir said that the agenda of the talks in Washington will include both substantive and procedural issues.

Ne'eman: Cabinet Must Approve 'Substantive' Topics

TA0812115191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] At the weekly cabinet session, Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman asked about the statements by Ambassador Zalman Shoval and Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington that Israel will be making substantive proposals this week, not only discussing procedure. Afterwards, Ne'eman told me the prime minister promised that Israel would make no substantive proposals until they have been discussed by the inner cabinet, which meets on Wednesday. Ne'eman said procedures, modalities, and the agenda would have to be settled first:

[Begin Ne'eman recording] The agenda may be called substantive by some people, but the substance proper will not be discussed before it is raised and discussed in the [inner] cabinet. [end recording]

But Health Minister Ehud Olmert says he did not hear the prime minister promise that only procedure will be discussed this week. Olmert admitted, however, that some of the procedural issues would have to be settled first:

[Begin Olmert recording] Certainly procedural issues will take place first. In due course, when these issues are concluded, we will move toward discussing the substantial issues. Whether it will take place this week or in the coming weeks remains for negotiations and therefore I think it is too early to judge. But we are certainly going to discuss the substance, and not just the procedure. [end recording]

Olmert did not think Israel should walk out of the talks in protest over the Jordanians and Palestinians obtaining separate conference rooms from the State Department, but he said Israel should insist that they appear as one delegation.

The cabinet adopted a resolution that anyone who has title to a house in Silwan village has a right to take possession of it. This was in effect a rejection of the attorney general's view that the police have the right, under certain circumstances, to deny access to the Jewish settlers there.

Yuval Ne'eman expressed satisfaction with the government's decision. It is not yet clear whether this will lead immediately to the Jewish families moving into the other houses which have been purchased in Silwan. Today's government decision has to do mainly with the government's response to a petition in the High Court of Justice on the Silwan issue.

Israel To 'Insist' on Jordanian-Palestinian Team

TA0812200191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Israel will insist that the Jordanians and the Palestinians appear as one joint delegation to the peace talks in Washington. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made this clear at today's Cabinet session. The prime minister stressed that Israel's non-insistence on implementing some of its demands for the opening round of these talks in Washington will not serve as a precedent. More details from our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik:

The prime minister only gave the ministers a short briefing this morning. He declared that, although Israel had originally demanded a separation of the talks with the various delegations, it had decided to attend the talks after considering the situation that had developed. Nevertheless, Israel will continue to demand this week that the discussions move to the Middle East after one or two sessions.

Yitzhaq Shamir told the ministers that this is a complex operation. It was difficult to hold consultations with the political echelon from such a distance. All the Israeli representatives are key officials. They are busy people who cannot leave their posts for weeks on end. The Jordanians, Shamir claimed, are for the most part not occupied with day-to-day affairs. The Palestinians are also free most of the time, while the Lebanese are mainly pensioners.

The right-wing ministers—Ze'evi, Ne'eman, and Eytan—who had recently issued a written request, today asked the prime minister again just what kind of autonomy Israel is offering the Palestinians. The prime minister replied that it is too early to say. We have not yet presented the issue to the Arabs; however, any issue of substance in the peace talks will first have to come before the Cabinet for approval.

Afterwards, Ze'evi's proposal to hold a debate marking the fourth anniversary of the intifadah, which has now progressed to the use of firearms, was discussed. Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens opposed this proposal. They said that they did not want this date to be marked in the Israeli cabinet as well in Washington. This would turn it into a media event.

On the other hand, the ministers commemorated Hanukkah and the doughnuts they were given disappeared very quickly.

Shamir on Peace Process, Early Elections

TA0712090891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you sum up last week from the political point of view? Was it a good week for Israel despite the fact that we did not show up in Washington on 4 December?

[Shamir] I believe it was quite a good week. None of the prophecies of our doom came true; they were all disproved. We explained our positions everywhere. We made progress in our contacts with the U.S. Government as well. We made progress toward the coming stages of the negotiations.

[Golan] Do you believe, sir, that we—you—have managed to get our message across to the Americans and the Arabs, that there will be no more dictates and that they should talk to Israel directly?

[Shamir] I do not want to discuss that issue any further. We have done our part. I believe we did the right and just thing, and now we look to the future.

[Golan] The Arabs do not like the date we have offered, 9 December. How do you view this whole game?

[Shamir] It is not terrible; it is no tragedy. I suppose that next week the negotiations will continue. If they start a day sooner or later, it is immaterial. I believe that this time, as we overcome additional birth pangs—after all we must not forget that we are still at the beginning of the process and every beginning is difficult—after we overcome this, I believe several problems will perhaps begin to be solved, at least issues of procedure.

[Golan] How long should the Washington phase of the talks continue, and when, if we still insist on this, should the talks move to our region or Europe?

[Shamir] We certainly insist on this. We want the talks to move to our region or close to it. That is the position of the U.S. Administration as well. We told the Americans that we are willing to hold one or two meetings [in Washington], and later the talks must move to our region. I hope the Arabs will also understand that our position must be taken into consideration. In fact, it serves them as well. We see today, as they should, that it is very difficult because every trip to Washington is a major logistical operation.

[Golan] This weekend there were reports that in the Washington talks the United States will offer an interim arrangement on the Golan Heights, according to which we will hand over parts of the Golan Heights, including Majdal Shams, to the Syrians, in return for a nonbelligerency agreement and a reduction of the Syrian forces in the north. Will you consider such an offer positively?

[Shamir] I suggest that we do not deal with those matters at all. I believe they are soap bubbles—speculations based on nothing, on no real proposals. We are still far from such offers or ideas, and I do not want to consider them at all.

[Golan] You must have ideas and thoughts about what can be done with Syria?

[Shamir] There are different thoughts. Our delegations have instructions and orders. Naturally, if a surprising change occurs during the Washington talks, they will have to be given instructions.

[Golan] What would you call a surprising change?

[Shamir] If the Arabs raise proposals we did not expect.

[Golan] Over the past few weeks you made several speeches in which you spoke of greater Israel; last week the cabinet decided to set up a new settlement at the Tapuah junction. Will this behavior not diminish the Arab desire to make peace with us?

[Shamir] Look, we must not mislead the Arabs. They must have a sober and realistic view of the facts, just as we do. I believe that the euphoria we felt after Madrid could be harmful. The public must know what we want and where we are going. I have explained it in the clearest manner, I believe: Our line is to act for peace and protect Eretz Yisra'el. We must fulfill both those tasks together. It is not simple or smooth, but that is our job.

[Golan] Will we manage to do it and stay a friend of the United States?

[Shamir] I believe so. I do not know what it is to be a friend of a superpower.

[Golan] Receiving annual aid and guarantees to finance immigrant absorption.

[Shamir] I suppose our good relations with the United States will continue, with their ups and downs, with the exchanges, and with an occasional difficulty. Such things are normal.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, are you willing to say here, to prevent the Palestinians from feeling euphoric, what is the maximum they may expect?

[Shamir] I do not have to set their limits for them, and I do not want to talk about maximum or minimum with them. It is clear, however, that there is no room for any talk about a Palestinian state. We have to talk about a realistic framework. We discussed that years ago, and everything we promised and signed then is still binding, but not more than that.

[Golan] What about after the transitional period of autonomy?

[Shamir] OK, after the interim period we will hold negotiations about the permanent solution. Nevertheless, not one person among us has or will commit himself to the nature of that permanent solution.

[Golan] Recently there has been a lot of talk about early elections, both for political reasons and due to the crisis over the special budget allocations. If I may ask: When will Yitzhaq Shamir—fed up with the U.S. pressure and with the demands to return Judaea and Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan for peace—decide to quit?

[Shamir] I have said on more than one occasion that personal feelings and emotions cannot determine political moves. I believe that the government has to remain in power, that life must be kept as normal as possible, and I have always preferred that elections take place on the date stipulated by law. At the same time, there are precedents, and it is possible that we will need to hold early elections; this time, however, we are only speaking of a few months.

[Golan] June?

[Shamir] I do not know. We have planned nothing yet. I have not considered such a possibility. Even if we do, the time difference will be rather small. I do not believe we should be too preoccupied with this.

[Golan] What could be the circumstances calling for early elections?

[Shamir] I will not speculate on them. There are too many possibilities to forecast them all. In any event, I do not believe that a decision to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections will result from any political evaluation. I do not think in that way.

[Golan] We could, however, signal to the Americans: If you overdo it, we will stop the whole process and go to the people.

[Shamir] I do not think we need to warn or intimidate anybody. The matters are quite clear.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, you have said on more than one occasion that the political process that has just started will be long, hard, and complex. Can you estimate how long it will take before the discussions bring about signed accords between Israel and the Arab countries? When will we have peace?

[Shamir] It is true I said that. I was not the only one. Anyone who believes in the process, says and believes that it will be difficult because of the circumstances leading to it. We must, by the way, understand what is meant by a difficult process. It means we could have difficulties. For example, we had a certain difficulty last week. Nevertheless, if there are difficulties, we need not panic or get hysterical. I believe that if anyone here in Israel got a bit nervous, he soon realized it was unnecessary. Difficulties are possible, mainly in the initial stages.

As for the issue of accords: I do not think we can talk of documented accords [heskemim], but on every subject, and with each state or element we negotiate with, the aspiration has to be reaching the maximum possible agreement [haskama]. Once we agree, we must put it in writing properly and decide on how to implement what we agreed on. I do not believe we will make interim agreements [haskamot]. I believe we will sign comprehensive accords [heskemim], and I do not know how long this will take. We must not look for very quick achievements, because we could make mistakes that should be avoided. At the same time, we must not drag our feet, God forbid. We must try to promote the process as much as possible.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you.

Sharon Favors 'Fortifying' Jewish Settlements

TA0712114391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon in New York, by Razi Barqay—live]

[Excerpt] [Barqay] Good morning, Minister Sharon in New York.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Barqay] You have been in the United States for quite some time now and I assume that we did not look that good last week. Do you agree?

[Sharon] I believe that matters must always be kept in their proper proportions. The problem is not how we look, but what we do. I believe that when it comes to dealing with the major issues—which are not how we look compared to the Palestinians or any other Arab delegation; this is irrelevant from Israel's point of view—what is important is that we deal with the major issues. The main issues are not the composition of the delegation or this or that date. They are linked with the basic problems of the Middle East. The path we have taken—or rather, have been dragged along—bypasses the main problems. We are being dragged into dealing with secondary issues. That is why this question is irrelevant, I think.

[Barqay] Several days ago you reiterated your stand that one of the preconditions for true peace with the Arabs is

that a democratic regime starts developing there. When we made peace with Egypt, that was not your stand.

[Sharon] Things have since changed in the Middle East. Today there is a situation where small or medium-sized countries own weapons of mass destruction. We have been watching with grave concern how Iran is quickly developing nuclear arms; Libya is working on nuclear arms; we know for certain that Iraq continues its efforts in that field. Chemical and biological weapons have somehow become obvious. We are dealing with totalitarian regimes led by murderous men who could not care less about the fate of their people. We have all witnessed what happened in Iraq and several years ago we saw Syrian President al-Asad murder some 30,000 of his own people. That indicates you cannot deter those countries. Mutual deterrence does not exist at all.

[Barqay] Is it your conclusion, therefore, that we must not make peace with them as long as regimes there do not change and a new political culture does not develop?

[Sharon] No, I have never said that. We know the Middle East, after all. There are things that can be done immediately, as I have suggested and demanded. A country that wants to join negotiations, or continue them—because the process has already started—must freeze or stop the arms race immediately. Following that, later, more complex stages will follow, but that can take years; arms reduction, bringing Israel's arms into balance with those of all the Arab countries put together. The first thing, however, must be an end to the arms race. That can be done immediately. Democratization takes longer. What can be done is to start a process—for example, declaring a multiparty regime, or giving more freedom of expression; placing some buffers on the path of those murderous totalitarian rulers. That is a long process.

There is another thing that can be done rather quickly: the terrorist organizations. In my view it is not so hard to do, and I have been preaching and pressing for this for years: An Arab country that today announces it wants to take part in the negotiations must expel, deport, dismantle in any way possible the terrorist bases on its territory. Terrorism today, unlike before the Lebanon war, has an address.

[Barqay] So much for the concessions we are demanding of the Arabs. We, on the other hand, have to give something in return. Allow me to call your attention to two or three trailers placed in Tapuah and ask you in the United States whether this is not a redundant settlement?

[Sharon] I am glad they are there. I am sorry I did not have the privilege of deciding to place them there, but those who made the decision knew they would have my blessing. I believe there is no connection between Jewish settlement and peace. I believe that fortifying Jewish settlement and holding the most vital strategic territories will only contribute to peace. The Jewish settlement is no obstacle to peace; it is an obstacle to war. I would advise us all to stop dealing with matters that have no significance at all, compared to what is going on before our very eyes in the Middle East. This is a marginal thing, compared to the great dangers we are facing. It is important for us because it gives Israel security. What are you dealing with, compared to what is happening? What is good for the United States is good for Israel as well. Today, however, there is one exception: The United States has adopted a policy of appeasing murderous totalitarian regimes in the Middle East, while using an iron fist against the only stable democracy. We all should be proud of our democracy, by the way, instead of calling it names occasionally in a bid to influence the U.S. Administration to exert more pressure on Israel's legitimate democratic government.

[Barqay] Despite your criticism of both Washington and the Israeli Government....

[Sharon, interrupting] Excuse me please. Do not put words in my mouth. I have uttered not one word of criticism of the Israeli Government.

[Barqay] Allow me to remind you that earlier in the interview you said the Israeli Government insists on the wrong issues, and you explained what the right things are.

[Sharon] Let me tell you that I never used that word. I said I believe we have to deal with the major issues. These other issues are important as well, but only secondary.

[Barqay] Meaning that you believe we must go on with the political process we have started?

[Sharon] I do not think that we should not have a political process. I believe we should have one, and that it should deal with the basic problems of the region. I believe I am one of those capable of promoting a political process. I believe that if we take the right way, for which there are models in other places in the world, we will succeed and, with great effort, perhaps reach peace.

[Barqay] In saying that you are one of those who could promote the political process, do you mean that you would like to have a more active role in the government?

[Sharon] We are not dealing with changes in the government right now. I have said, and I will repeat: I am one of the people who could conduct peace negotiations; one who understands what is happening in the Middle East and could reach peace with the Arabs, although the path is very long and difficult. This, to a large extent, is a result of my stand that in order to reach and sustain peace we must focus on the substantial and basic problems. [passage omitted]

Settlement-Building Suspended Over Budget Dispute

TA0812141191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Dec 91 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] The Housing and Construction Ministry has informed the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza that due to the budget dispute with the Finance Ministry, construction of 5,300 houses currently in progress in the settlements and of houses scheduled to begin this year will be suspended.

The suspension applies to the 1991 budget from which, according to the Finance Ministry, the Housing and Construction Ministry has grossly deviated. As for the 1992 budget, the settlers were told that, if the government adopts the Treasury's position, the building of another 5,000 houses—construction of which was scheduled to start next year from the Housing and Construction Ministry's budget for 1992—will also be suspended. The Housing and Construction Ministry had planned to build a total of 15,000 houses, including 5,000 in the territories, throughout the country next year.

The settlers have reacted to this news with "fury and astonishment," as they put it. They have met with officials of both ministries and have contacted the prime minister's bureau. Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, said that construction of some 1,500 houses in Ari'el, 500 in 'Ofarim, and 500 in Avney Hefetz—"all of them in central Israel," according to him—will be suspended this year.

It is at this time, Uri Ari'el said, "when the struggle for Eretz Yisra'el is at its height, that building in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza should not stop." According to him, the halt in construction denotes capitulation, withdrawal, and the ceding of these areas. It is inconceivable that construction should stop here because of a dispute with the finance minister, a man whose political ideology supports building in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Ari'el noted that almost all the houses now being built in the settlements are bought by private buyers who pay for them in full. He noted that there is no reason for the government to fear that it will be forced to make good on purchase commitments given to building contractors in those areas.

UK Paper Says Syrians Turned Over 3 Bodies

Defense Ministry Refuses Comment

TA0812094291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] The British newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES this morning wrote that a short while ago Syria handed over to Israel three bodies, but it has become apparent they were not Israelis, but Syrian soldiers.

The Defense Ministry refused to comment, but defense sources told our correspondent that such a thing has happened, but that it took place 18 months ago, not recently.

POW-MIA Adviser on Fate of Missing Navigator

TA0812113991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Britain's Sky television network has reported that captured navigator Ron Arad is being held by the Syrians. Commenting on this report, Attorney Ori Slonim, the defense minister's adviser on POW and MIA affairs, said there has been no new information about Ron Arad. According to Slonim, those who have seen their hostages handed back would be doing the right thing if they would exert pressure to resolve this problem. Our military correspondent 'Ido Baum spoke with Ori Slonim.

[Begin Slonim recording] I believe at this time it is necessary for the UN secretary general, all the elements holding the hostages, and those who have seen their hostages return home, to be told out loud that the State of Israel, too, should see the end to this painful affair. I definitely believe there is room for this kind of pressure. The pressure does not necessarily have to come from individuals dealing with the issue, but it would be best if it came from any possible element. [end recording]

'No Confirmation' Arad Held By Damascus

TA0812190991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says Israel has no confirmation of the report out of Beirut that Israeli Air Force navigator Ron Arad is being held by Syria. Arens said he was confident the UN secretary general's special envoy, Giandomenico Picco, will make every effort to locate Ron Arad and other Israelis missing in action. Arens was speaking in Tel Aviv this evening to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] There are reports from Lebanon claiming that navigator Ron Arad is in Syria. Do you have any reason to believe them or any information that would say that those reports are true?

[Arens] I have no way of knowing whether this is true or not.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr. Picco said today in a BBC interview that in fact the UN apparently knows nothing about the whereabouts or who is holding Ron Arad. Would this seem to indicate that the situation regarding him and the other missing Israelis remains essentially frozen—there is no news and no progress?

[Arens] Well, I certainly hope it is not frozen. Mr. Picco took upon himself the task of locating Ron Arad and other missing in action, and I hope he will complete that task.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you share the concern of some Israelis that have been heard, that in fact the situation is now not to the advantage of Israel? The fact that the American hostages have been released, the Germans are apparently going to be released within a few days. Israel seems once again cut out of the picture.

[Arens] Well, we are happy when any hostage is released but we are now expecting the release of our prisoners.

[Ben-'Ami] You do not feel pessimistic about the situation?

[Arens] I do not think it will make any difference if I tell you that I am optimistic or that I am pessimistic. We simply have to wait and continue to exert every possible effort to bring them home. [end recording]

Arens on Disclosure of German Arms Shipment

TA0812163291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Israel's relations with Germany have not been harmed by the disclosure of the shipment of German arms to Israel, Defense Minister Moshe Arens told correspondents this evening. The defense minister would not elaborate on the military cooperation between the two countries.

[Begin Arens recording] I do not want to confirm or elaborate on the military cooperation between Israel and Germany, but I will say that relations between the two countries are definitely normal and even good and that in my opinion they have not been harmed at all. [end recording]

Referring to the negotiations on the release of our POW's and MIA's, the defense minister said he is not prepared to concede to the feeling that the negotiations are stuck. However, he had no good news to report.

[Begin Arens recording] I wish I could tell you some good news about this important subject. Had there been any good news, you would certainly not have had to wait for a casual meeting here, at the Defense Ministry, to hear it. We will announce the good news when we have it. [end recording]

Police Bar West Bank Arabs From Jerusalem 9 Dec

TA0812174791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Jerusalem police are deploying reinforcements to foil the intentions of terrorist organizations to increase their violent activities to mark the fourth anniversary of the intifadah tomorrow.

During meetings held today at police headquarters and at Police Minister Roni Milo's office, it was decided to bar the entry of Arabs from the territories into the capital beginning tomorrow morning. The Jerusalem police also canceled all officers' leave and bolstered deployment by two additional companies.

King—No 'Ambitions' for West Bank Territory

JN0712152091 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] His majesty the king has said that Jordan supports the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people on their national soil, as well as the implementation of UN resolutions, especially 242 and 338, to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute. His majesty said that Jordan's objective is to have the land returned to its own people so that they could decide whatever they want; and this cannot be achieved under the circumstances of occupation.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published today, his majesty said that Jordan had never and will never have any ambitions in this land. His majesty explained that we are negotiating on the basis of Resolution 242. He said this resolution did not mean withdrawal from Sinai only, as Israel claims, but from all territories occupied in June 1967. His majesty said Arab Jerusalem has a great significance for Jordan, and our position on this issue is clear. Jordan has been the closest country to the Palestinian issue from the beginning. The Palestinians want to uphold their Palestinian identity, and so do the Jordanians. But this is not a problem for us. The problem is how can we regain Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil.

His majesty said that we are now waging a battle of peace with wisdom and determination that this peace be acceptable to the forthcoming generations. And we are not talking about peace at any price. His majesty went on to say that our next generations are entitled to a life in the region different than the life we have lived in the past.

His majesty said that we are at the beginning of the road, and that he did not believe it will be an easy matter, but will take time and effort. His majesty asserted that right is on our side, adding that he hopes that the efforts currently being made would lead to constructive results.

His majesty noted that for the first time, it is the Arabs who have the initiative, adding that our problems should be tackled, and the world should apply pressure on the extremist sides which have adopted positions hostile to peace so that they could review these positions. His majesty said that it is unreasonable to keep this issue which is the basis of instability in this part of the world without solution. It is also unreasonable to see that efforts made to achieve just and honorable peace fail. He noted that Israel used to appear in the eyes of others as adopting positive positions enthusiastic about peace. But the world now realizes the facts and illusions that had existed in this regard.

Asked about the Gulf crisis, his majesty said Jordan has never supported the use of force by Arabs against Arabs. Jordan has never supported the occupation of Kuwait from far or near, but sought to reach a solution within the Arab context. Jordan will remain for all Arabs, and especially for the Gulf Arabs in all the challenges and dangers they face. Jordan is for Arab understanding, and genuine cooperation, and pan-Arab interests.

King, Delegation Leave for Summit in Dakar

JN0812102491 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] His majesty the king left Amman this morning for the Senegalese capital of Dakar at the head of the Jordanian delegation to the sixth Islamic summit, which will begin there tomorrow. His majesty will address the summit on Arab and Islamic issues and international developments. The speech will also deal with the Middle East peace process and ways to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the crux of this conflict, which is the Palestinian issue, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and other UN resolutions with the aim of regaining the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

FRG Hostage Deal Reported; Syrians Holding Arad

NC0812104491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] REUTER has cited a Lebanese Islamic leader who asked not to be identified as saying that two German hostages, the last of the Western hostages remaining in Lebanon, are going to be released this month as part of a deal with Bonn involving Shiites imprisoned in Germany on charges of abduction and murder. The Islamic leader said Israeli pilot Ron Arad, who was taken prisoner in south Lebanon in 1986, is in the hands of the Syrians. He added that there is an agreement concerning the two German hostages and the Hammadi brothers.

FRG Hostages To Be Freed In 'Next Few Days'

NC0812145791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] According to radio sources, German Government sources pointed out today that the two German hostages held in Lebanon will be released in the next few days.

The process for releasing the two German hostages was achieved on the basis of a successful agreement reached in Bonn by Picco, the UN envoy for the hostages issue. The agreement provides for the release of Muhammad Hammadi and his brother 'Ali Hammadi from German prisons in return for the release of the two German hostages. The Hammadi brothers will be released (?one month) after the release of the Germans.

Foreign Minister Defends Peace Talks Attendance

NC0712114891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Speaking on our radio program "Saturday Salon," Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: I reject the claim that the decision to attend the peace conference was made by one Lebanese group and not another. The decision to participate in that conference was comprehensive. He added: I may assure you that on the authorities level, there has been total agreement concerning Lebanon's participation in the conference. We have a clear idea about what Lebanon expects the conference to produce.

Buwayz said: Had Lebanon not participated in the conference, we would have heard some say that Lebanon was absent from the conference and that others were talking on its behalf.

Buwayz on Talks Delays, Jazzin Issue

NC0712125691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The main item on the agenda of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral talks in Washington is to set a timetable for the implementation of UN Resolution 425 without making any concessions and without preconditions on the part of the Israelis. This is what Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz emphasized during a news conference he held today at noon at the Foreign Ministry.

Minister Buwayz said the implementation of Resolution 425 is the main issue for Lebanon. In addition to this issue, the negotiations also are important, in that they involve side contacts with officials, which are equally important to the negotiations, he noted.

Asked about reports published by some newspapers that Lebanon received a draft negotiations proposal, Minister Buwayz said Lebanon has not received any draft proposal to date, but it is still a U.S. idea.

Regarding the delay in the talks, the foreign minister said this problem is between Israel and the United States and does not concern the Arab parties. He said this issue is nothing but some Israeli maneuvers to foil the conference and the negotiations.

Asked if Jazzin will be discussed at the negotiations, Buwayz said negotiations over Jazzin are absolutely out of the question. The negotiations, he added, will revolve around the entire south.

Buwayz on Resolution 425

NC0712164691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] In today's "Saturday Salon" feature Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz described the Israeli delegation's failure to attend negotiations on 4 December as a maneuver to blackmail the United States. Buwayz emphasized that Lebanon will not relinquish one iota of its soil or renounce any of its rights. He said that the Lebanese delegation is going there to say: I will discuss only two issues, the armistice agreement and scheduling the implementation of Resolution 425.

Here is what Minister Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] Of course, Lebanon has had Resolution 425 for approximately 14 years. Naturally, this resolution is clear, independent, and integrated. We have not heard much of it but now that we are and since it is being raised so intensely, the chances of implementing it have improved. At least this Resolution is now being raised.

It has remained unbacked for 14 years. There are two views: One, a fundamental political view, has nothing to do with [word indistinct] that says: Let us sit at home and make statements calling to implement 425. Resolution 425 will then be implemented, probably at Christmas or on some other date. This is a thoeretical stand and cowardly as far as it concerns the people and the issue of the south. With such a stand we would be fooling and bluffing the people of the south when we tell them: It suffices that we sit at home and call to implement Resolution 425. If such a stand would really yield results, it would have been pursued, and the Resolution would not have to wait for 14 years to be implemented in the south. There is another, realistic view that stipulates: We must ensure Resolution 425 is backed by

diplomatic, political, and international efforts, and in certain international circumstances that would allow it to be implemented and would pressure Israel to implement it. This is the right and real way to struggle. This serves Lebanon's cause and the cause of the south effectively. [end recording]

Buwayz on Israeli Withdrawal From South

NC0712154191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] At a news conference today, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz ruled out an Israeli withdrawal from any part or area in the south before the talks at the peace conference make progress and before we reach a comprehensive notion of complete withdrawal. He said that the discussion of Jazzin independently of or before the issue of the south could adversely affect our stand in negotiations with Israel for complete withdrawal. He stressed: We view withdrawal from Jazzin as only one step toward complete withdrawal from the south.

He said that in the absence of any U.S. commitment to complete and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, we cannot halt resistance operations or undertake security in the south.

Minister Buwayz emphasized Lebanon's adherence to the message contained in the invitations to the peace talks and the letters of assurances on the basis of which Lebanon participated in the talks. He affirmed that the Lebanese delegation is in Washington only to discuss scheduling Israel's withdrawal in accordance with Resolution 425.

On another level, the Lebanese foreign minister said that international circumstances, especially the peace conference, have predominated the issue of establishing the fund to aid Lebanon. He said: We will again raise this subject at the Islamic summit conference slated to begin in Dakar on 9 December.

Regarding the leak of the list of Lebanese nationals who demonstrated in Paris against President Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit to France, Minister Buwayz said that this issue has turned into a purely French problem. He said that the French opposition seeks to attack the French Government by using a number of means against it.

Israeli, SLA Jazzin Withdrawal 'Signs' Noted

NC0712134791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Public Works Minister Nadim Salim has declared that the Kafr-Falus-Sidon road will soon be open. He said his ministry is working in the south, particularly Marj 'Uyun, Bint Jubayl, Bint Jubayl al-Qadimah, Tyre, and Kafr Falus, to meet citizens' needs and, as he puts it, to strengthen their sense of loyalty to the state. He stressed that the state insists on implementing Resolution 425, adding that the United States is holding some contacts on Jazzin but refusing to disclose details and progress. He hinted that things are looking positive and hoped that all roads will soon be open to citizens in the south.

Different sources have told our radio the same, that there are signs of the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] withdrawing from Jazzin for one week [as heard]. Among these signs is the SLA withdrawing to the Kafr Falus post and cement bunkers being transferred to Kafr Huna village heights. The information revealed that authorities are paving the roads to link Sidon and Jazzin and the other areas supervised by the Lebanese Army once the Israelis withdraw from the security belt, according to Resolution 425.

U.S. Ambassador Assailed at Intifadah Rally

NC0812173191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] The Fatah Movement and the PLO held a rally in Tyre's Burj al-Shamali camp at noon today on the occasion marking the fifth anniversary of the intifadah and in support of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Washington. Present at the rally were representatives of the Amal Movement and the Communist Action Organization as well as Palestinian officials from the Tyre region.

PLO representative in Lebanon Zayd Wahbah addressed the rally. He reiterated what he announced yesterday regarding the refusal to hand over light weapons from the camps as long as the Israeli attacks continue.

In his address, Wahbah attacked U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker and his call for collecting the weapons from camps. Wahbah noted the strong ties between the PLO and Syria. He pointed out that the Palestinian camps support the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Washington and have full confidence in it.

It should be recalled that a general strike will be observed in the Palestinian camps tomorrow and processions will be staged on the fifth anniversary of the intifadah.

Hizballah Source on 'Pro-Zionist' Military Policy

NC0712080491 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Commenting on some of the decisions made by the cabinet, a responsible Hizballah source made a statement saying: When basic challenges remain in the south through continued escalation by the Zionist occupation and its agents in a way that imposes heavy responsibilities on the Lebanese political forces and particularly the government regarding taking practical steps to confront the occupation and provide the means of steadfastness to the villagers—whose resources and capabilities the confrontation has heavily taxed—the Lebanese Government is toying with other matters and concerns. The latest of these was the decision to reorganize and redeploy the military brigades among various areas and to collect light weapons, as if this were a major concern and a challenge to liberating the country.

The source said: We were expecting a decision that matched the Zionist perils, but instead the government confirmed that its task is to revive and protect the pro-Zionist policies that are dominant in this country, the same policies which triggered the civil war in the first place.

The source said: The decision to reorganize the brigades and collect light weapons is worthless and unacceptable, particularly at this stage, when serious consultations are under way concerning a deal over Jazzin involving a strike against the resistance. The decision is a step toward isolating the Islamic and patriotic areas and forces by turning the Army into a policeman whose role is to repress political forces rather than defend the country's borders.

The source said: The Army's task, the only task that can be endorsed and encouraged, is to resist the occupation, support the resistance, and protect the people.

Hizballah Reacts to Bush Statement on Terrorism

NC0712111191 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Commenting on U.S. President George Bush's statement that the time has come to uproot terrorism from the region and the world, Hizballah has issued a statement saying:

The U.S. Administration, as is its custom, did not feel ashamed of itself when Bush gave himself the right to speak about uprooting terrorism from the region in an attempt to mislead world public opinion to distort all historical facts, which are full of black chapters that speak of the most horrifying and brutal massacres against mankind from one end of the world to the other, beginning with Hiroshima, Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, Iran, Iraq, the greater Islamic homeland, and ending with the flagrant and exposed support for the cancerous gland, Israel. Israel caused the death and the displacement of thousands, even millions, of Palestinians and Arabs from their homelands and homes and usurped their wealth and resources.

The statement added: Perhaps what the usurping entity is doing today in terms of continued occupation and domination over our people in Lebanon and [words indistinct] of the U.S. shells and bombs on the heads of our defenseless people in the south and western Al-Biqa' from air, land, or sea constitute blatant proof of the [words indistinct] and the criminal tool used by the United States to prove its hegemony over the peoples.

The Hizballah statement concluded by saying that neither the United States nor its President, the top terrorist, has the right to speak about terrorism. Instead, they should await the just retribution that will be handed down on them by all peoples and the entire world, God willing.

Fadlallah Terms Peace With Israel 'Harmful'

LD0612174191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of Lebanon, stressed the steadfastness of Muslims vis a vis the Zionists' ugly plots against the world of Islam and said that peace with the Zionist regime would be harmful to world Muslims. 'Allamah Fadlallah, who was preaching Friday prayers sermons in the southern suburbs of Beirut, added: Peace with the Zionist regime would strengthen that regime and would encourage the occupier regime to increase its activities against the interests of Islam and Muslims in various economic and political fields.

Dealing With Israel 'Prohibited'

NC0612193791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the peace conference might face many complexities, although it seems that the conference is heading toward the results designed for it. He remarked that this might take one or two years. He said, however, that the train is already on the track.

In his Friday sermon, Fadlallah said: We have to understand that dealing with Israel is prohibited, whether or not Arabs reconcile with Israel. He stressed that religion, and not the rules of economic embargo, is what prohibits our dealing with Israel.

Fadlallah Criticizes Government 'Inaction'

NC0712083091 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has criticized the government's indifference and inaction regarding the kidnapped Lebanese who are detained in the prisons of the enemy and its agents, most notably Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. His eminence denounced those who collaborate with the enemy in the south, saying that the enemy is using such people as sandbags to protect its settlements.

Fadlallah said: We are opposed to peace with Israel, which means that we also are opposed to dealing with Israel, and we call for boycotting it and for pressure against any country that tries to deal with the enemy.

Al-Hirawi, Karami Leave for Islamic Summit

NC0812064591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left Beirut a short while ago for Dakar at the head of an official delegation to attend the Islamic Conference Organization summit conference, which will begin tomorrow in the Senegalese capital. [passage omitted]

Information Minister on Peace Talks

JN0912092691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Dec 91 p 21

[By Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has called on the Arab parties participating in the bilateral peace negotiations with Israel to coordinate their positions at this critical stage in order to overcome all the obstacles Israel is placing before the negotiations.

The minister, who was talking to the Jordanian press delegation which recently visited Syria, praised the constant Jordanian positions on Arab issues, and Jordan's call for coordinating positions on the peace talks with sisterly Syria. He also said that the Jordanian foreign minister's statements in this regard please every Arab and Syrian.

He added that the Arab consensus on not to abrogate the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism is good, and falls within the framework of unified and positive Arab coordination in the service of joint Arab interest.

The Syrian information minister stressed that the Arab countries have no alternative but to coordinate, achieve solidarity and cohesion at the current stage, and overcome and sidestep marginal differences despite the big rift created by the Gulf crisis from which we, as Arabs, still suffer.

He explained that Syria is going to the peace negotiations to attain implementation of international legitimacy represented by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which will lead to the liberation of all usurped Arab land, as well as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil.

He stressed that Syria insists on the liberation of all occupied Arab territories, and not only the restoration of the occupied Golan Heights. He indicated that had Syria wanted to restore the Golan, it would have done so long ago, either through the Camp David negotiations between Egypt and Israel or after.

The Syrian information minister declared that in past years, Syria received offers to enter formal negotiations with Israel, after which Israel would withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. But, the pan-Arab position of Syria and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad rejected this offer in part and parcel.

He explained that Syria still adheres to, and will not deviate from, its constant position on the pan-Arab issue. Proof of this is President al-Asad's speech to the Syrian people after they renewed their pledge of allegiance to him for a fourth presidential term, and in which he said that whoever thinks that Syria would relinquish a grain of occupied Arab soil is mistaken.

Replying to a question on how he assesses the Israeli position on the peace process, the minister said: The Israeli position is characterized by procrastination and prevarication regarding all the Arab side's demands. He explained that Israel's greatest concern is to maintain its occupation of the Arab territories in order to absorb hundreds of thousands of Jews from all over the world, Soviet Jews in particular.

Based on this concept, Israel wants to jump to the third stage of negotiations—the multilateral or regional negotiations—that are presumed will focus on bilateral cooperation between the Arabs and Israel. Israel seeks to attain normalization first, without making any progress in the bilateral negotiations that focus on the liberation of the occupied Arab territories.

In this regard, Salman wondered why some Arab countries that are not concerned with the bilateral negotiations are enthusiastic about entering the third stage of negotiations before progress is made in the second stage of talks, especially since these countries that are far from the essence of the conflict have no real interest in any negotiations with Israel.

Salman said Israel will be the only one to gain from the multilateral talks because it seeks to achieve two things. The first is to pull down the wall of hostility in the Arab-Zionist conflict and open Arab markets for Israeli goods. He said Europe and the West will not allow Israeli goods to enter their markets to compete with local European products. That's why the opening of the Arab markets will be an outlet for Israeli goods and in an area that is close to Israel.

The second thing that Israel seeks to realize from the multilateral talks is to try to share Arab waters with the neighboring Arab countries of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. These Arab waters lawfully belong to the Arabs alone and not to any other party. Israel is carrying out blackmail attempts to obtain part of the Al-Litani waters in Lebanon, some of the Jordan River tributaries which have their source in Syrian territory, and water from the Al-Yarmuk River.

Salman explained that Israel's strategic objectives in this field are to secure water for the settlement of Soviet Jews. He said this is why Syria refuses to participate in the multilateral talks before any progress is achieved in the bilateral talks and before Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories. That's why Syria also calls on the other Arab parties to support its stand on this issue, affirming that Israel wants to get everything—peace, land, and the Arabs' economic cooperation with it without offering the Arab nation anything in return.

Salman also spoke about the Syrian Government's eagerness to secure food security for the Syrian citizen, given that the question of food security has become the major preoccupation of all societies in view of the expected large increase in the number of the world's population.

He emphasized the importance of the Al-Furat Dam in Al- Raqqah Governorate in the implementation of this policy.

Salman said that following completion of the Al-Furat Dam, which is the second largest dam after the Aswan Dam, Syria has started reclamation of 9,000 square km of desert land, and has planted them with all kinds of crops, particularly cereals and cotton. He said Syria has so far implemented most of the plan it had set in this respect in record time and that 6,250 square km have been reclaimed and that the reclamation of the remaining 2,500 square km will be completed next year thanks to the network of large irrigation canals all over the plains surrounding the Al-Furat Dam in the Syrian Al-Jazirah area.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese President, Delegation

JN0512144891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] At 1130 today in the People's Palace, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, accompanied by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and a delegation comprising several cabinet members and deputies.

Upon the arrival of President al-Hirawi and his delegation, President al-Asad welcomed them at the entrance of the People's Palace, in the presence of Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputies to the prime minister, and ministers.

The two presidents and the Syrian and Lebanese officials then moved to the reception hall, where President al-Hirawi congratulated His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in his name and that of the Lebanese delegation on his excellency's reelection to a new constitutional term in office. President al-Hirawi then presented his excellency the president with a token gift of a map of Lebanon, with the following inscription at the bottom: With the renewal of the pledge, Lebanon reiterates its pledge of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination.

Al-Hirawi Departs After Meeting

JN0512172491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi resumed their meeting at 1245 today.

The meeting was attended by the accompanying Lebanese delegation. Attending for the Syrian side were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister; and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The first meeting between the two presidents was concluded at 1130 today. [passage omitted]

President al-Hirawi and his delegation left Damascus at 1500 today. He was seen off at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Pledges Continued Support for Lebanon

JN0712202391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received a northern Lebanon delegation made up of Lebanese Minister of State Sulayman Tony Franjiyah and deputies 'Ali 'Id, Habib Kayruz, Jubran Tawq, Istafan al-Duwayhi, Dr. Ilyas Saba, and Salim Sa'adah who came to extend their congratulations to his excellency the president on his reelection as president of the republic for a new constitutional term.

Sulayman Tony Franjiyah and the delegation members expressed their heartfelt congratulations to his excellency the president, and thanked him for the assistance Syria under his leadership has extended to fraternal Lebanon over the past years.

His excellency the president thankfully accepted their congratulations, and underscored the fraternal ties existing between the twin countries, Syria and Lebanon. Furthermore, he asserted that Syria will continue to support Lebanon.

Iran

Release of Hostages, Shaykh 'Ubayd Expected

LD0612164791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1500 GMT 6 Nov 91

[From the "Review of the Week" program]

[Excerpts] Joseph Cicippio, Alann Steen, and Terry Anderson were the last U.S. hostages to be released. [passage omitted]

The sad hostage story, which has had its ups and downs, started with the kidnapping of four Iranian diplomats by Israeli-backed Phalangist paramilitary elements of Lebanon in East Beirut. This drama intensified with the kidnapping of anti-Zionist resistance forces by the Zionist regime's occupying army and finally led to the kidnapping of Westerners in Lebanon. Various efforts during the past decade failed to resolve this crisis. As a result of these efforts, however, a number of the hostages were freed.

The manipulative activities of certain Western governments and the obstructionism of the Zionist regime, that does not generally view a solution to the hostage issue as in its interest, prevented a principled solution to the crisis.

In any case, international developments, putting solutions to tense regional and extra-regional crises at the top of the agenda of the strategy of big powers, the elimination of flash points—especially in important and strategic regions of the world, including the Middle East—and the inclination of hostage-taking groups for a principled end to this crisis, prepared the grounds for a definite, comprehensive solution.

The release of the British hostage [John McCarthy] in Shahrivar [month starting 21 August] and the invitation to the UN secretary general to play a mediating role in the crisis were the starting points in a new phase for a comprehensive solution to this lasting difficulty.

The efforts of the UN secretary general and the humanitarian acts and mediation of Iran, and to a certain extent Syria, finally led to tangible results. [passage omitted]

According to the Revolutionary Justice Organization statement, during the multilateral negotiations, agreement was reached on a comprehensive program for the release of all hostages. Agreement was reached on removing the obstacles to the release of all hostages—detainees and POW's.

In return, the UN secretary general gave clear-cut guarantees to the hostage-takers. It is said that some of these guarantees concern an undertaking by the hostages' governments regarding future retaliatory measures against the hostage-takers—similar to what has taken place regarding the Hammadi brothers in Germany.

In any case, it is expected that the recent unprecedented agreement in Damascus will not only lead to the release of the remainder of Western hostages—two Germans and an Italian—but also to the release of 350 Muslim Lebanese hostages from the clutches of Israel, including Shaykh 'Abdul Karim 'Ubayd—the outstanding symbol of anti-Zionist Islamic resistance of Lebanon will follow.

'Brighter Prospects' for German Hostages' Release

NC0912100191 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec 9 (AFP) - Iran sees "brighter prospects" for the release of the last Western hostages, two Germans, in Lebanon, the TEHRAN TIMES reported Monday.

The English-language daily, which is close to the government and has correctly reported the release of several Western hostages in Lebanon, said an upcoming trip to Germany by Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Va'ezi offered hope in the resolution of the Germans' problems.

"The official but not pre-planned trip to Germany by Mohammad Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs within the coming days seems to open up brighter prospects, specially as Va'ezi is considered a pivotal figure in the Foreign Ministry," the paper explained.

The TEHRAN TIMES said the trip to Germany "could possibly bring news of fresh developments" in this regard. [passage omitted]

"The Iranian Government will certainly do its utmost to bring the hostage issue to an end," the paper said, since Tehran-Bonn relations were very cordial "and Iran's ties with Germany are not at all comparable with its relations with England or the U.S.," which have suffered over the past few years.

The paper said Iran, as a matter of principle, favored the release of hostages "from all nationalities".

But, it said, the Iranian Government had been placed in a particularly difficult position by constant pressure from Germany which has asked Tehran to use its influence with the captors to free the two Germans.

It said the emotional and psychological aspects of the case complicated matters somewhat for Iran which was being asked "to pressure a family whose son is condemned to spending the rest of his life in a prison in Germany."

Ayatollah Meshkini on 'Right' To Have Nuclear Arms

LD0612223991 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1437 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in Qom on 6 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse] A few short points: I think it is my duty to briefly mention a few things in my second sermon. In the superpower countries, the big satans, especially in the United States, there is some talk that Iran wants to make nuclear weapons; that Iran has a nuclear weapon. They say that sort of thing. Sometimes they launch an attack saying: These matters must be pursued. Some attention must be paid to who is saying such things. Nuclear power is something that can be useful for various purposes nowadays. Nuclear power is not only for atomic bombs, which can be dropped on people to destroy and kill them. It can be used for agricultural purposes. It can be used in pharmaceutics. Nuclear energy, that is.

We say, first of all, that Iran has nuclear energy and that it is not making an atomic weapon. Islam does not allow the making of destructive, murderous weapons and such things. I also told you on another occasion: Islam has forbidden the invention of murderous, destructive, and ruinous weapons. It does not allow anyone to initiate the making of something that will be used for killing people. But if others do such a thing, if others disobey God and make such instruments, then God allows Muslims to make comparable things in response for the sake of defense. There are also [Koranic] verses in this regard. [Koranic verse]

First of all, Iran is not making an atomic weapon that can be used for killing and destruction. And even if it were making it, we would say to those countries which say such things, to the great satan: "So what if Iran is making such a thing? So what if Iran, too, makes such a thing?" And it should do so in response to you. Are you, in other words, suggesting that you do not have such things and that, therefore, Iran should not have it either? That would be a lie. And if you are suggesting that you have such things but that you are wise and just, that you use it in a suitable manner, that you do not violate human rights, [whereas] Iran may have an ignorant nation and may carry out something which goes against human rights—if that is what you are saying, that is even worse than the other one. What is it to you whether Iran makes such a weapon or not? You have revealed your own criminality. You have revealed your treachery to everyone in the world.

Is there any country which does not realize that you stand at the head of all terrorists, at the head of all criminals? However, some are too scared to say so and some are greedy for what you can give them and therefore do not speak against you. But that is not the issue. Our problem, our surprise is directed at the United Nations. They sometimes—how many times have they surrendered in the face of U.S. bullies and kept silent? In response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, they issued 12 resolutions, they got up and went there, crying that there had been a violation [of international law] and an injustice. But they say nothing in response to other acts of injustice.

In any case, their protest to the effect that Iran has nuclear energy and that it wants to make an atomic weapon—we say to that: Iran is not making an atomic weapon; maybe it has never done so, and if it were to do so, it has a right to do so because you have it. The East has it and the West has it. We do not want atomic weapons to be deployed, but no one should have it. If some have it, then everyone should have it. Why should you have it and not others?

At any rate, there is another small problem with our brother neighbor, the government of Turkey. It has been quite some time now that you have confiscated a ship bound for Iran. On what charge? Why are you so subservient in the face of the big powers?

Mr. Turkey [as heard], why do you treat Iran this way? After all, we have good relations. Do you want to spoil good relations for the sake of one ship? Why are you humble before enemies? Why do you dance to the tune of the infidels and the United States? You have been elected by your nation. Islamic governments, you should know that your nation has put you in power. Your nation has put you where you are. Your nation is not on the side of the United States. Your nation is on the side of Muslims. Do not always dance to America's tune. Do not always surrender to the infidels. You are an Islamic country. [Koranic verse]

Islamic countries, if you unite, there will not even be any need to fight and quarrel with the big powers. Unite together and then your strength, your culture, your resources, your oil will make you so strong that all your enemies will surrender to you. But, unfortunately, no one listens to sensible words. Our deceased Imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to paradise, said as much as a prophet could to Islamic countries. Our eminent president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, preached so much to that wicked and unworthy Saddam [Husayn] that even great prophets had not preached to such an extent to their nations: [he said] Mr. Saddam, do not attack Kuwait! Mr. Saddam, now that you have attacked, now that the governments of the world have united to come to Kuwait's help, withdraw! Hand Kuwait over! Return to your own country! Rule your own country!

He said, no, I want to fight the world. And so his war ended with the total destruction of a nation. Now, too, he is plunged in misery. That is the result of ignoring good advice. That is the way of the world! [passage omitted]

Yazdi Says U.S. 'Bullying' Libya

LD0612180291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary and acting Tehran Friday prayer leader, at Tehran University on 6 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I have two issues to speak about briefly. At a time when the second round of

Arab-Israeli negotiations are on the agenda and when America is applying pressure so that these negotiations take place—and we know that the main objective is the negotiations themselves, sitting next to each other and getting a step closer to the official recognition of Israel—the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] is meeting at ministerial level in Senegal. During the next few days, the ICO session will meet at head-of-state level. The Palestine issue is one of the most important issues on the agenda.

Regarding the [Arab-Israeli] negotiations, as we have said before on many occasions: These negotiations—whether round one, two or three, whatever they may be—will not achieve anything good. Can you not see that the intifadah has intensified these days? There are more strikes, more confrontations. This means that the Palestinian people are not prepared to let certain people sit around together and make deals over their rights. [crowd chants in support: Death to Israel, Death to America]

Mr. Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, openly says: I am not hopeful about complaints made to the UN Security Council over the Israeli attacks in south Lebanon. He relates how to date around 100 cases have been reported to that Council— with no results. Look, a responsible official of Lebanon openly raises this matter. You have read in the press that the United States has cabled the Lebanese leaders saying: Stop complaining to the Security Council. America may be forced to use its right of veto and veto the complaint.

I am not going to speak politically here—just a short judicial discussion with the members of a Security Council and the heads of the various commissions of the UN: What is the philosophy of existence of these organizations? Is it upholding peoples' rights? Is it confronting tyranny and suppression? If these are its philosophies, why should one see that in practice, big powers manipulate this great organization and use it as a judicial tool for political work?

Let me tell these gentlemen: If you want to maintain the credit of the organization regarding upholding human rights on an international level and the like, stop these activities. If a responsible official comes and says: I have no hope. I have not heard a reply to my complaints and if a message is sent to him saying: If you complain, we will use the right of veto, then what is happening to this organization? What credit does it have? This is a judicial debate, not political. I say: Keep your dignity.

I will say one more thing; time is up. The speaker of the Libyan parliament was in Iran some time ago. All our people heard and read about all the talks between him and the honorable Majlis speaker and the president. One thing was said by the honorable president, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi [Rafsanjani]—may God give him more success to free this country of the problems that exist, under these extremely sensitive conditions; it is the duty of us all to do our best, give our help and support so that the rest of the country's problems are solved, God willing—he said something with the Libyan parliamentary speaker which I view from a legal viewpoint. His interpretation was that if America is so sure that it has proper evidence, why does it insist on trying the case in a U.S. court, which has no jurisdiction over others? Why is it not prepared to hand the matter over to an international court, if its evidence is strong? That is a perfectly apt question, a very accurate legal point. Someone should say, where can you find an international criminal court? What exists in The Hague is civil, not criminal. Also, it is for arbitration and not for passing judgement. First, one should think of a court.

What I want to use in this argument is that we have said, on every possible occasion, that in the present world conditions at least the Muslim countries should have an international court, so that if crimes that have international aspects are committed in certain countries, they would be tried in courts acceptable to those countries, and the culprits convicted and punished, and that it should not be contrary to the interests of those governments and nations. That is right and should be so.

What I should say is, why does America mix legal issues with political ones? This is a legal matter. I accept, and all who are familiar with law know, that the first question is the court's jurisdiction. When any case is heard before any court, the first question is the court's jurisdiction. If the court's jurisdiction is not acceptable to the accused, any trial would be legally invalid. Jurisdiction should be on a correct basis: where the crime was committed, the culprit's nationality, other international conditions, extradition laws; we know all that. So, should one use a legal matter as a pretext to exert pressure on an Arab country, for the sake of political issues?

America, as I mentioned, said to the Lebanese official, do not complain; otherwise, I will veto. So, naturally, she says to Libya, if you do not do such and such, I will do such and such. Is that the proper way to try a case? Is it correct legal procedure? Or is it bullying, exerting force, and hegemony? It is a sign of hegemony in a power that, when finding itself alone, thinks nobody in the world understands. The world has woken up and understands. There is a limit to bullying; it can go so far. It is not acceptable indefinitely. [passage omitted]

Velayati on Visit to Soviet Republics

LD0912003291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1615 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, a large part of your 10-day trip to the Soviet Union was devoted to visiting the six Muslim-populated republics of Central Asia. Also in the course of your trip you signed several memorandums of understanding in various fields. How do you evaluate these visits and what were the topics on which the memorandums of understanding were signed?

[Velayati] To begin with, I must point out that, in my view and as far as the the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, these republics share a number of common factors and characteristics. Among the common factors clearly manifest in those republics was, first, the shared wish of the people and the government, or the governments, which followed the wishes of the people, for autonomy and greater independence. For instance, on arrival at one of the republic's airports, the welcoming words of the deputy prime minister and the foreign minister who had come to receive us were something like: Welcome to our independent republic. [passage omitted] Of course, the governments of these republics—the republics of Central Asia—are more or less of the opinion that they should continue their connections with the central government in the form of some kind of new union. However, one does not see this as a definite or unalterable view. In view of the changes and the developments inside the Soviet Union, there are fluctuations in terms of that view. [passage omitted] Election fever was rampant everywhere. In Kazakhstan they were on the threshold of their elections—a few days after our departure from that republic, they held their presidential elections, and Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev was elected president. That was last Sunday. In Tajikistan, President Nabayev had been elected but not yet sworn in, and on the day we arrived he was sworn in in Tajikistan's parliament; in fact his first official meeting following his swearing-in ceremony was with the Islamic Republic's delegation.

Another of the common factors is the desire to establish some kind of unity amongst themselves. [passage omitted] One felt that they shared some sort of a bond; notwithstanding their wish to remain in the union, they have at the same time established some kind of unity and bond amongst themselves, which they seek to strengthen. [passage omitted]

Yet another common factor which relates exclusively to us is the fact that all these five Central Asian Rebulics unanimously agree that Iran must be one of the principle countries with which they should establish close relations. There are many reasons for this, some of which are related to the common ties we share with those republics; common religion, history, culture, customs, and traditions. With regards to the common traditions, I must point out that all these republics have agreed to declare Nowruz [21 March, Iranian new year] a public holiday. We have either signed a memorandum of understanding in each republic or we have prepared a draft copy of a memorandum, which will be signed in the near future. Memorandums were signed in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tukmenistan, and Tajikistan, but in Uzbekistan it was agreed that their deputy foreign minister should bring the final agreement to Iran to be signed. We reached agreement to open a consulate in all the republics.

One of the agreements repeated in all the memorandums of understanding is the proposal to connect the railway lines and land routes of these republics to the Islamic Republic. They will be linked via Iran to Europe from one direction and to the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, the Indian Ocean, and the Far East from the other direction. Mr. Nazarbayev supports a proposal—which is pursued by some other republics—to build a railway line linking Iran to China along the old silk route. On the Iranian side we have agreed to build this railway for a distance of about 200 km from Mashhad to Sarakhs. A similar length of railway lines will be laid by Turkmenistan from Sarakhs to Tajan. This will link the railway lines of the Islamic Republic of Iran to all the railway networks of these five republics. If 300 km of railway lines were to be built in Kazakhstan, it would link the railway lines of these republics to China's railway lines; and the railway network in China extends to the Pacific Ocean. You realize this means a revival of the silk route. The project has, therefore, been given the same name. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, in view of the Islamic Republic's sensitive and special situation in the region as a whole, how do you think the independence of these republics will affect our country's situation?

[Velayati] Our position is clear. We went to these republics through the Moscow gate. The Islamic Republic does not intend to take advantage of the existing sensitive circumstances in the Soviet Union. We, as a neighbor of the Soviet Union, wish to see that their situation returns to normal as soon as possible. We respect whatever the people of that country as a whole desire, and the republics in particular. But we have no intention of provoking or speeding up anything. We are seriously and firmly in favor of maintaining our good-neighborly ties with the Soviet Union. Whatever form of agreement the responsible officials of these republics deem expedient to reach with the central government, it will be respected by us. The Soviet Union might adopt a different name in the future. It is highly probable that this will happen. They may choose a name such as the Union of Independent Republics, or semi-independent republics. Whatever name they choose will be respected by us. We do not intend to dictate anything. We do not intend to contribute toward the further deterioration of the situation. We are not pursuing such a policy at all. Whatever decision is made by the people of one republic or all the republics, in the present form of the Soviet Union, or in a future form of a union of republics, it will respected by us.

[Correspondent] What is your evaluation of various speeches and your meetings with the people?

[Velayati] Cultural and sentimental ties are shared between us and these republics. It is appropriate to take the opportunity of such visits to extend our cultural ties. It is very interesting that each of these republics has chosen a cultural figure in order to find their roots and return to their original identity. This shows that culture is the most important factor linking these republics. Farabi is chosen as the symbol of nationalism in Kazakhstan. Abu Nasr Farabi is the great philospher of Iran and Islam. Wherever we went, important institutions

such as universities were named after Farabi. [passage omitted] Since they are striving with so much enthusiasm to return to their roots, since the essence of these roots is clearly cultural, and since the illustrious figures of the history of Islam, Iran, and civilization are the symbols of the revival of the national identity of these republics, we thought it would be appropriate for us to participate with the very little that we can offer.

Ties With Soviets To Be Based on 'Final Plan'

LD0912100891 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—Iran will regulate her relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of a final plan to be determined by the Soviet leaders on administration of all Soviet republics, said First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Monday.

Speaking in his weekly press conference as government spokesman, Habibi told reporters that the political developments in the Soviet Union were an internal question of that country. "Iran is waiting to see what decisions will the Soviet leaders make on the future political structure of that country in order to establish its relations with the new body and with its subordinate countries."

On Iran's support for the Soviet Muslim republics, Habibi said that since the long past, Iran has had common religious, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds with the Muslims of those republics and "presently we are following up the current developments in these regions on the basis of the aspirations and demands of their people."

On the government policy in countering (Western) cultural onslaughts against Iran, he said the issue is currently being debated in the "Cultural Revolutionary Council" and in the "Supreme National Security Council" (SNSC). The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has been assigned to prepare a plan in this regard, he added.

Asked why the issue has been taken to the SNSC, he referred to the active role of the Western arrogance in the cultural invasion and said, "to counter Western cultural invasion is at the same time a security matter."

President, Khamene'i Confer Prior to ICO Summit

LD0712165391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the President, met and conferred with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, this evening, on the eve of his trip to Senegal where he will participate in the sixth Islamic Conference Organization summit.

In the meeting, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, wished him health and success, and gave him the necessary guidance.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Departs for Dakar

LD0812160291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpt] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani set off for Dakar this morning at the head of a high-ranking political delegation to participate in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] meeting of heads of state in Senegal. In an interview with our correspondent before his departure, the president remarked on the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran at that conference, considering the importance of the Palestine issue and Afghanistan. He said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First, in our view this conference is being held at a time when the Islamic Republic must concentrate all its efforts so that suitable policies are formulated regarding world and regional issues.

As you are aware, groups and blocs are being formed under the world's new conditions. There is a limited amount of time for Islamic countries to clarify their policies concerning the basic issues of the world of Islam, the region, and the world.

There are the issues of Afghanistan, Palestine, and many others in the Islamic world which require all-encompassing cooperation between Islamic countries. We hope that, with our presence in the conference, we will be able to put forward our Islamic views. Let not the Muslims come to the field late and suddenly find that others are already implementing programs to which we have to react.

Of course, our stance is clear. The important point is that we find more people who think alike through the negotiations there. By the way, the problems of the Islamic world require negotiations, cooperation, and the elimination of tension. Conditions around us mean that we must certainly be prepared, that Muslims must be ready to confront these problems. [end recording]

In response to another question from our correspondent regarding his trip to the Sudan, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated that this trip is taking place as a reply to visits by heads of state of friendly countries to Iran. The trip to Sudan is a priority because of that country's efforts to implement Islamic laws. Trips to other African countries will take place at a suitable time.

It is worth noting that Messrs. Rowghani-Zanjani, director of the plan and budget organization; Intelligence Minister Fallahiyan; Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the [Islamic Revolution] Guard Corps; Rowhani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council; presidential advisers Mo'ayeri and Mohajerani; and Do'aii and Asghari, Islamic Consultative Majlis representatives; are accompanying the president on this trip. [passage omitted]

Chinese Minister Arrives in Tehran

NC0812080191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] He Guangyuan, China's minister of machine-building and electronics industry, arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by the minister of heavy industries.

After his arrival, the Chinese minister stated that in his talks with Iranian officials, he will discuss further cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of machine-building and equipment for power plants.

Pakistan

UN Calls for Cease-Fire in Afghanistan

BK0612132891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] The UN General Assembly has called for cessation of hostilities in Afghanistan so as to accomplish a political settlement acceptable to the people there. The call is contained in a resolution worked out by Pakistan and the Soviet Union. The resolution ws adopted by the General Assembly by consensus and without a debate last night. It emphasized the need for early start of an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of broad-based government through democratic procedures acceptable to the Afghan people, including free and fair elections. The resolution was tabled by the president of the General Assembly, Mr. Samir al-Shihabi, saying that it was a balanced resolution that took into account concerns of all parties involved. It reaffirmed the right of the Afghan people to determine their own form of government and called for the creation of necessary conditions that would enable over 5 million Afghan refugees, including over 3 million in Pakistan, to return to their homeland.

The Pakistan ambassador to UN, Mr. Jamshed Marker, expressed his government's satisfaction over the resolution which was finalized in consultation with the Soviet Union, the United States, China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

Official Comments on Possible U.S. Aid Cut

BK0612163091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan would pursue its objective of self-reliance and would not allow any aid relationship to affect its independence and sovereignty. The spokesman was responding to a question regarding remarks by the director of the USAID in Islamabad about cutting off American aid to Pakistan.

He referred to the prime minister's policy statement on the subject and added that during the recent visit to Pakistan by the U.S. under secretary of state, Mr. Reginald Bartholomew, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had conveyed to him that Pakistan desired friendly relations with the USA regardless of any aid relationship.

Clandestine Station To Broadcast to Kashmir

BK0812160391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 8 (AFP)—Pakistan has set up a clandestine radio station across the line of control in Kashmir to broadcast propaganda to the troubled state, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Sunday.

Unidentified senior officials in Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, were quoted as saying that the radio's programs monitored by Indian intelligence agencies showed they were aimed at "whipping up anti-Indian hysteria and pro-Pakistan feelings."

Generally the broadcasts were in the Kashmiri and Urdu languages, the news agency said.

Kashmir is claimed by both countries, who have fought two wars over the province since independence from Britain in 1947.

Some Muslims in Kashmir, the northern one-third of which is controlled by Pakistan, are leading a bloody campaign to secede from India.

India alleges Pakistan provides arms and military training to the militants but Islamabad rejects the allegations, saying it only extends moral and diplomatic support for the right of self-determination for the people of the province.